Sunday, June 24, 2007 ... Vol. 22 / No. 176 ...

COURT OF LAST RESORT: As it marks its 106th year, the Supreme Court's significant rulings on 7 recent cases could change the country's political history. SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Yesterday: Pioneer of the Airwaves Pete Roa retrieves the glory days of radio/TV and tells how he pursued, eloped with Boots Anson ENTERTAINMENT / H4

JOB FAIR
Job Fair
Big city jobs now in Boracay

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Manila's 8 best kept secrets: Arroceros Forest Park, Baluarte de San Diego, Rizal Avenue, Orchid Garden Suites, Get Honest, Andres Manalo, Diamond Hotel arroceros and the Gamaba Museum. SUNDAY MAGAZINE

NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T: Children skip and hop through a hopscotch along the shoreline of the port in Bacoor, Cavite—while they can. When high tide comes during the night, the patches of greenery return to the sea.

SC to call summit on slays

PUNO: Unprecedented power

Puno: Command responsibility to be reviewed

By Yuki Cumarones

THE SUPREME COURT IS BENT ON BRINGING itself closer to the battle against extrajudicial killings.

Chief Justice Reynato Puno said the steps now being set by the possible convening of Philippine legal powerhouses would be three more helpful to the victims, more forceful against the suspects of perpetrators, and more demanding of government agents assigned to solve such cases.

Puno said this high court would spearhead a multisectoral summit to be held next month to gather "inputs" on how the judiciary could fully use its "expanded powers" under the Constitution as a guardian of civil liberties.

"We are now planning to have this sort of congress, or a summit meeting, which would discuss the particular problem of extrajudicial killings," Puno said at a dialogue with Supreme officers and reporters on Thursday.

He pointed out that the unsolved murders had given "a black eye to the country—and to the Judiciary especially as the executive department."

The Chief Justice spoke of "grim rulers" that could be made to the legal system to address the dead ends and think walls often impeding the investigations.

SC TO CALL SU

Old Manila streets lose names to politicians

By Augusto-M Vista
Contributor

LIKE OLD BUILDINGS AND structures, old names of streets and public places are part of historical heritage.

For a city like Manila, which is celebrating its 436th birthday today, many streets have been identified with the history of the place and considered integral to its character. Many historical events occurred in the city's streets, bestowing it treasures and glories.

Espeña Boulevard in Sampaloc district, for example, was the scene of the country's biggest funeral procession, that of the martyred opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr. "Ninoy" Aquino in 1983. From the late 1960's to the present, protesters and demonstrators walked here on their way to the gates of Mendiola.

The University of the Tomas was established on this street in 1922, and was the site of an internment camp for Allied pris...

OLD MANILA, A2

PPCRV: May 14 polls a 'celebration of volunteerism'

By Fe B. Zamora

THE MAY 14 ELECTION WAS A "celebration of volunteerism," a shining moment for about half a million volunteers who gave "light" to the electoral process, according to an assessment by a Church-allied election watchdog group.

But the gains were shadowed by the "violations in the Muslim and known operations in its ranks," according to the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) in a post-election assessment report released yesterday.

"We honor and salute our PPCRV volunteers, even ourselves, who worked against an abundance of fear and a poverty of resources in order to safeguard the rights of each and all voters to vote freely, to have each and all votes counted and canvassed accurately, to defy guns, goons, gold in exposing the ailing and unlawful meddlers at the polls," the PPCRV said in its report.

"Our nation was suitably blessed with the transforming power of Election 2007 to look for whom justice is impossible," according to the report which was prepared by some 730 PPCRV delegates who met as a post-election national conference from June 20 to 22.

PPCRV, A6

Missing Bedol gets ultimatum

THE "DISMISSED" MAN HAS three days to show up.

Mapandacan election supervisor Lintang Bedol, who has again made himself scarce, was given that crude issue by the Commission on Elections to make an appearance, or be slapped with administrative charges.

"He gave him a three-day extension period, after which we will file charges against him for infidelity in the custody of public documents," Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said yesterday in an interview over radio station dzRL.

Task Force Hagupit-Dacoo, which is looking into the supposed election irregularities in the province...

MISSING, A4

Fisheries officials, fishermen trade places

By Jerry E. Esplepa
Bureau

WHAT BETTER WAY TO UNDERSTAND another person's plight than to trade places with him.

For the whole month of May, some of the regional officials of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) traded places with leaders of fisherfolk groups from various provinces.

"Through this two-way immersion program, we hope that the players would have a better grasp of the issues we are implementing to promote and safeguard their interests, while government officials would understand better the concerns and needs of our fisherfolk," said Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap.

Yap's unique team-building effort was preparatory to an ambitious push to reach this year's target fisheries production of 3 million metric tons.

The fisheries sector, which now accounts for 23.44 percent of total agricultural output, was the biggest gainer in the first quarter of 2007, posting 8.52-percent growth. Production value

FISHERIES, A3

MANY-SPLENDORED JEWELS OF IRI: In traditionally sensitive land like the Czech Republic known for its baroque architecture, glass-ware and jewelry, its First Lady Livia Klausova (center) got the celebration of the new century started. "Many Colours of Asia," that showcased Asian art and culture in Prague. The first lady herself opened the jewelry exhibition of Filipino artist Cele Molano (left) at the city's Modern Art Museum Kampa. Molano was invited to show her collection, "Art of Adorning," by Marcito B. Saba (right), the first resident Philippine ambassador to the Czech Republic. (Czech exhibition, sculptured necklace worn by Molano and earrings on this page were but a few of the jewelry pieces on exhibit.)

Arequested economist, Romero wrote the Philippines as "the country's official representative to the inauguration of Filipino artist Arroyo in 2004. She has a strong interest in Asia, and knows the importance of her country's architectural gems. After viewing Molano's designs, she stated, "The jewelry pieces are beautiful and refreshing on the eyes of the Czechs."

The fine craftsmanship of the internationally renowned jeweler artist highly impressed the guests, a gathering of members of the diplomatic corps and the Czech community. Ten friends among 's wife, Miss Helena Fries, known for her passion of matching marriages to her clothes, immediately purchased and ordered pieces of jewelry when she learned that they were sweet-sided.

Mothers save milk to save lives

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THEY SAVE BREAST MILK AND their services.

Thanks to a decade-old milk bank, newborn babies at the neonatal intensive care unit of the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC), whose mothers are either sick or unable to feed them, still get the right nutrition from the milk of other mothers.

These are not ordinary milk donors. These mothers, who also breastfeed their own babies, are donating their milk with the firm belief that they, out of a pure willingness to help.

Though most of them come from urban poor communities in Quezon City, the mothers are...

MOTHERS, A2

Beng Pineda files libel case vs PDI correspondent, editor in chief, publisher. NEWS / A6

Ricky Davao's actor-brother, wife caught in shabu den raid NEWS / A9

The Gospel of Silvia: Black book of secrets to make life easier for expats, by four expat women. LIFESTYLE / C1

Wyeth submits to BFAD recall procedures of milk formula made in its Cagdalang plant from May 23 to July 26, '06. NEWS / A5

Nato air strike kills 25 Afghan civilians caught in a battle against the Taliban WORLD / A23

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GMA: I'm taking message of hope

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE STORY OF A NEW PHILIPPINES—A "NATION striving to be free"—will be the message of President Macapagal-Arroyo when she visits the city-state of Singapore and the tiny west-central African nation of Equatorial Guinea over the next four days.

Speaking at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport before she left for Singapore at 10 a.m. yesterday, the President said her visits had acquired new significance in light of her government's recent strides on the economic front.

In Singapore, the President will address the two-day World Economic Forum on East Asia, during which she will meet with Singapore President S.R. Nathan, who visited the Philippines in February, and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

"We shall leave behind a message of hope, of the story of a progressive Philippines, a nation striving to be free...from debt, from poverty and from the debilitating politics of discord and dementia," said Ms Arroyo, outwardly fond of the Americanism of boosterism Asian Tsunami (Rumor).

She spoke of "the story of the Philippines" being heard "not as a passive bystander but as a force and relentless competitor in the global and regional markets, with clear competitive advantages."

She drew up a list of the Asian island of the world to "learn first-hand about the legacy that our administration intends to build and strive for the sake of history."

The list will include travelled 300 business and political leaders from 25 countries to discuss the theme "The Leadership Imperative for an Asian Century. It will focus on the new generation of East Asian multinationals, the impact of Asian investments overseas, and the durability of East Asia's growth in the face of emerging global risks.

Stay the course

"Your state visit to Singapore and participation in the ASEAN context at a time when investments are at an all-time high, and the uniform elections reflected the people's will," she said.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo troops the line prior to her departure for Singapore. At right is Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon. MALACAÑANG

The President recalled that a few months ago, she announced that Texas Instruments would make a billion-dollar investments in the Philippines. Recently, Tokyo Electric and Mitsubishi declared that they are also making a $4 billion investment, making it the largest Japanese investment in Philippine history, she said.

"These big investments signify that the Philippines is back and open for business. Our democracy is a proven fact; our economic growth is a work in progress. On both counts, the Filipino has shown the ability to stay the course by working hand and for having in the country's future," President Arroyo stressed.

A meeting with the Filipino community in Singapore is also planned, and after the three-day Singapore visit, she will proceed to Equatorial Guinea on June 25-26 to a chartered PAL flight, where she will stay for only 12 hours. She is expected back on June 27.

1st visit by RP leader

Ms Arroyo will be the first Philippine president to visit the tiny nation, a former Spanish colony that is now the third largest oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa.

She said friendship with the country grew with the state visit to the Philippines of President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo in May 2006.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said a major joint venture agreement would be finalized during the visit between the Philippine National Oil Co. and its Equatorial Guinea counterpart for PNOC to acquire a major stake in oil drilling in the African country.

"This is very significant because Equatorial Guinea is a major producer of oil, even bigger than Malaysia as far as oil production is concerned. It's also an important visit because we have quite a number of expatriates, about 2,500," Bunye said. With a report from Dexter C. Lacson

BIR chief's firing painful but necessary, says Teves

By Michelle V. Ramos

FINANCE SECRETARY MARGARITO Teves wrote the day said the ouster of Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag was a painful but necessary step to arrest shortfalls in revenue collection.

Buñag was dismissed from the service Monday. As much as we would have painful a revamp is, there is nothing personal to the process. We have no choice but to undertake what needs to be immediately done," Teves said in a statement.

Breaking his silence over Buñag's sacking, Teves said the government needed to bolster vital infrastructure and social services in the public, and so changes had to be made at the BIR to ensure the government's revenue goals were met.

After Malacañang announced last week it was losing go of Buñag, the latter said the reasons for the dismissal was the setting of unrealistic collection targets.

He noted that if compared to last year's target, BIR's collections so far this year had to face a hurdle.

He said the BIR's targets were based on macroeconomic assumptions that were unrealized, including the lower-than-expected growth rate and lower-than-projected interest rates.

Buñag said the lower inflation rate meant the BIR could not collect as much as value-added taxes as expected. The lower interest rates, he added, meant that the BIR could not generate the expected amounts of income bank deposits.

But Teves said the slowdown in inflation and the low interest rates were the reasons macroeconomic factors that had a negative effect on tax collection. Teves stressed that there were other economic factors that should have positively affected tax collection.

Teves said the BIR's quarterly tax collection targets were based on the assumption that the economy would grow by only 6.5 percent. But the economic growth in the first quarter actually reached 8.4 percent.

Higher economic growth meant there that there should have been more tax collection that could have helped boost tax collection in the first quarter.

Teves also cited the higher than-expected bank deposits and investments. If the effects of unrealized macroeconomic assumptions were combined, the net effect should have been a higher-than-target tax collection in the first quarter.

The BIR was tasked to collect P535.2 billion in the first quarter, but turned in only P502.1 billion or a shortfall of P33.1 billion.

The Department of Finance said the BIR's shortfall further ballooned to P104.8 billion as of May. In January to May, the BIR was tasked to collect P514.308 billion, but generated only P409.547 billion.

EU probers give PNP pointers on solving activists' killings

IMPROVE THE TECHNICAL AND forensic capabilities of the police, widen their training and sufficiently protect witnesses to the extrajudicial killings.

These were the pieces of advice given to the Philippine National Police (PNP) by a European Union mission currently investigating the killings of leftist activists and farmers in the country.

Director Gen's Bernie, head of the PNP Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM), and police officials met with members of the mission on Friday night.

The two said he told the mission the PNP Crime Laboratory needed to improve its ballistic analysis technology so as not to have to rely heavily on the testimonies of witnesses to murder cases.

"There are some areas of the country where we lack laboratory facilities to conduct proper forensic investigations of cases. Although our [the responders to the crime scenes] are adequately trained, on some occasions, procedures in crime scene processing are not followed because of lack of equipment and laboratory facilities," Reina said.

In return, he said, the mission pointed out the need for interagency training of police investigators, prosecutors and judges to stay clear-minded, militants, journalists and government officials. Members of the mission said the training would prompt prosecutors and lawyers to work together more before the early stages of the victim.

The EU mission also said the government had to strengthen its Witness Protection Program by making sure that witness protection was being performed by well-trained and fully-equipped security personnel.

The mission, Reina said, would bring up the issues in its recommendations to the European Parliament.

For his part, DIDF Director Gen. and Oscar Calderon welcomed the prospect of assistance from the EU morning from the mission.

"The PNP welcomes this gesture of support by the European Union, in the spirit of international cooperation, and the PNP is improving our law enforcement and investigative capability as a component of our justice system," Calderon said.

The mission is headed by EU Ambassador Alistair Macdonald. Its members are Swedish police man and forensics expert Bo Ingvars, Danish human rights law professor Jaime Bacierera, British lawyer Rory Field, Germany human rights lawyer Daniel Bauer and European Parliament members Imelda Del Medio and Neil Barclay. Alexis Romero

PRETTY MISSES IN A ROW

Zaybanon Mayon (center) was provisional 2007 Mutya ng Pilipinas Asia-Pacific International in coronation rites held Friday night at the Olongapo Convention Center in Olongapo City. Her court is accompanied on her right by Jacquelyn Rodriguez, third runner-up; Iris Frances Tan, first runner-up; Anna Mia Ilumbaba, Ms Tourism International; and Rizzamarie Ann Ibañez, second runner-up. ALEX LIBUNAO

'Cavaliers' urged to back Trillanes plan

By Alexis Romero

AFTER THAT FOUR SOLDIERS—led by ex-Senator-elect Antonio Trillanes IV—militant groups on were among other members of the Philippine Military Academy in the Senate to support Trillanes' call for the investigation of the extrajudicial killings throughout the country.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) secretary general Renato Reyes challenged the other members of the emerging Cavaliers Club in the Senate to get to the bottom of the killings.

"We are urging the so-called Cavaliers Club in the Senate to take on the probe of extrajudicial killings. Senators Rodolfo Biazon, Panfilo Lacson and Ito Aquino [Simeon] also have networks within the military that could shed light on the killings and abductions," Reyes said in a statement.

Bayan earlier welcomed Trillanes' plan to investigate the killings possibly with assistance from at least two active generals.

Reyes noted that this was the first time that many members were openly condemning and opposing the policy of killing an armed activists.

"The main thrust of the investigation should be the commanding officers and leaders responsible for the deaths and disappearance of hundreds of unarmed activists. We are willing to cooperate in the investigations in this respect," he said.

Reyes said Bayan conveyed its support for Trillanes' call for a broader investigation during the latter's interview(s) at Fort Bonifacio on Wednesday.

"The initiative to investigate the killings is made urgent by the continuing murders and abductions of activists. The senator seems to have an idea where to start his probe and that is with the government-sponsored death squads," he said.

Earlier, Trillanes revealed the existence of "death squads" or composite units of different intelligence units of the police and the various services of the Armed Forces. These units are said to operate "outside the chain of command" but are being directed at the highest levels.

"We needed to spend P400 million, value-added taxes went to this fund," she said.

"The difficult and politically unpopular steps we took to raise taxes are bearing fruit. We are now making significant investments in people and infrastructure.

"This includes billions of pesos in programs to promote human capital like education, health care, social services and training like the Technical Education Training Center that are put up here in Iloilo."

Subic dev't turning tillers, fishers to factory workers

By Amitabert Joaquin
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A PHOTO Freeport Managing Heads on this day said the development of this freeport, particularly with [one of the world's largest shipyards being built by a Korean company, has impressible growth.

Built on one of the deepest portions of Subic Bay, the shipbuilding facility of Hanjin Heavy Industries Corp. Ltd. (HHIC) at the Subic Bay Industrial Park has generated employment for about 30,000 workers from the outlying fishing and farming communities in Zambales, Bataan and Olongapo City.

The figure is dramatically up from the 1,400 workers that Hanjin employed when it started activities here last year.

"We are impressed by the surge of development happening here to create jobs and bring prosperity to the people," Ms Arroyo said during the inauguration Friday of the Subic Gateway Boulevard Road.

The 19.00-million, 30.13-km road connects the Hanjin shipyard in a community of farmers and fishermen "now slowly being converted into a community of factory workers."

"Congratulations to our fishermen, farmers and formerly plain housewives who are now expert welders," Ms Arroyo said about 1,166 Hanjin executives, local officials and workers back here.

The road is a legacy of outgoing Gov. Vicente Magsaysay to the people of Zambales, she said.

"We are delivering to you a world-class road leading to a world-class ship-building facility," Magsaysay, who was first lost in the recent senatorial race, told the President.

The access road is the fulfillment of the memorandum of understanding between the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and HHIC.

"[It] is an expression of the national government's commitment to support the investment project of the [HHIC that will] not only help growth over areas for manpower and construction materials for the Hanjin plant but will also serve as an important tool to help alleviate unemployment, particularly in the nearby communities," SBMA administrator Armand Arreza said.

The road, Ms Arroyo said, was financed with funds sourced by the value-added tax (VAT).

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MILK OF KINDNESS: Donors, mostly from the urban poor in Quezon City, voluntarily give their milk at the Philippine Children's Medical Center for babies whose mothers are either sick or too far away to feed them. (PHOTOS BY

Mothers save milk to save lives

For more, page A-2

PRIMARY BENEFICIARIES: Just the needy babies at the neonatal intensive care unit of the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PHOTOS BY

not paid, project head Dr. Glen Sandoval told the listeners.

Magic ingredients

The project was born out of necessity and research.

As chair of the breastfeeding committee of the hospital, Sandoval knows that only breast milk could provide the complete set of "magic ingredients" to ensure the optimal development of a preterm baby. The problem arose that many newborns at the hospital's intensive care unit had mothers who were either sick, could not breastfeed, or could not regularly visit the hospital because of financial difficulties.

"I could not find a way," Ramores said.

Ramirez said her term went to Benigno Control, just across the hospital, to look for lactating mothers who could donate excess milk. Interested mothers were willing and like Mira Costa Community Program was born. In 1997, it was authored recognition as a promising community project.

There mothers will had to cook meals, wash dishes and do the laundry, among other chores, but they all found time to give. "They were so motivated to give," Ramores recalled. What she says became an inspiration.

She made sure the stored breast milk was safe. "Donors are not only screened, interviewed and subjected to maximum tests. They are also taught proper ways of getting milk."

Most use manual pumping, which they find easy to do in the privacy of their homes. Both sources, before bringing it to PCMC the container they have time.

The frozen milk, once brought to PCMC, is pasteurized, and frozen again. When needed, it is defrosted and given to the babies using droppers.

Locally developed technology

Ramirez and several teams of scientists have perfected the pasteurization and storage process over the past eight years, refining the temperature and the procedure duration to come up with the precise formula to kill viruses and bacteria, while still preserving all the nutrients.

The award-winning pasteurizer that PCMC is now using is considered by many experts as one. Sandoval said it is so precise that she has already applied for a patent, hoping it could be produced commercially for other hospitals and for future.

Frozen breast milk lasts up to six months, Ramirez advised.

She hope this milk be used not only in hospitals, but will also be used by mothers who have to go to work," Ramirez said.

So far, only PCMC has a pasteurizer for breast milk, she said. The Philippine General Hospital has long been working on establishing its own human milk bank, but the equipment is not yet available, according to PGH spokesperson Michael Ee.

Formula-free hospitals

The operation of the breast milk bank at the PCMC is in recognition of the importance of exclusive breastfeeding for newborn babies, an recommended by many health organizations, amid the aggressive multimillion campaign of multinational companies selling breast milk substitutes.

Health undersecretary Alexander Padilla said he was supporting efforts to build human milk banks.

"This is a way to eliminate the use of infant formula in all hospitals," he told the Inquirer.

Ramirez said pasteurized breast milk is far superior to commercial milk.

Advocate choices

One donor, 22-year-old mother of two Clarrie Rose Cleto, says sharing breast milk is something she holds close to her heart.

Unlike most of the donors, she belongs to an affluent family. She says she only sought out PCMC to share her breast milk.

"I had excess milk. I did not want to waste it. My cousin, who is a pediatrician, told me about the milk bank at the PCMC. So I went there," Cleto said.

She first donated milk when she gave birth to her second child in 2008. She has just given birth to her second child and she intends to donate milk again.

She said she felt for mothers coming from poor families who couldn't afford to buy powdered milk for their sick babies, where "breast milk is really important for our babies."

Not only is she donating breast milk to the PCMC, she is also encouraging her friends to breastfeed their babies and donate them excess milk.

So when an employee of her husband's manufacturing company was having problems breastfeeding her baby because of insufficient supply, Cleto, who asked a friend, who had just given birth, to donate her excess milk.

Appeal for more donors

Ramirez said a number producers more milk, if more is put pasteurizer her breasts. "Whatever left over donors is to breastfeed their children first and pump after that the excess milk," she said.

Cleto plans to PCMC to bring her excess milk every other day. Her husband drives her to the hospital. "I am happy that I am able to feed other babies," she said.

Donors do not get to see the babies they give milk to. "The donors want to positive feedback that they are not in a huge emergency.

Ramirez has a bigger dream. To fulfill the ambitious expansion project. Ramirez said they also need more donors.

She is appealing to the hearts of other mothers. "No matter who you are, you have something precious to give," Lactating mothers are invited for all of the PCMC conference. Anyone corner Agham Road, Quezon City (Tel. No. 924-6601 local 2061).

BANK DEPOSITS: Midwife Monita Lorca shows samples of breast milk preserved in a medical freezer.

Fisheries officials, fishermen trade places

For more, page A-2

tagged in at P43.67 billion, up 10.2 percent from P39.58 billion in the same period last year.

Understanding, communication

Dy hoped the effort at bridging the understanding and communication among fishery stakeholders would put more meat on the table at last to expand areas farm or municipal fish ponds and fish cages, accelerate aquaculture projects in local areas to help establish more seaports promoting plants, and encourage the building of more barges and ships to meet local needs from harbor.

Besides the issues facing congress, the Makabayan Bloc of lawmakers in their respective regional offices, accused the city of Bicol down- town in the implementation and determination of key programs of the agency. The Lawmakers are worried that the new set of rules they could take would be "completely discriminating" and would not effect government accounting rules and procedures.

Eva remembered, Yap said the exercise need to deepen their understanding of government programs and policies, including efforts to open up new markets here and abroad for small farm stakeholders.

On the other hand, regular BFAR director Asuncion Encarnacion during the fishing communities during the same period within their respective areas of jurisdiction.

Hopefully they will learn more about the problems encountered by fisherfolk in dealing with government bureaucracy, doing work and poses and solve concerns, among others—and do more to help them.

Old . . .

From page A-1

issues facing World War II.

Espaldon was able to relate to many important decisions of a disaster in the devastation experienced between the City of Manila and the Intramuros who donated the land from the street as well as advising cases would be turned over the Bureau treasury and to provincials. Otherwise, the land would revert back to the owners, the Salcedo Development Co. owned by the Ilo Ilo Riva family.

'Biggest racist culture'

Unlike historic issues of one-old street names have been changed. The country's politicians, out of what the historians Gregorio Zaide once called "biggest racist culture and linguistics," have been individualistically renaming streets, roads, avenues and boulevards. Renaming also appears to promote political and personal agendas as some public places have been renamed after politicians and public officials.

The result is a insanity that is causing its historical heritage.

In Manila, the renaming of streets has been done often in complete disregard of their historical significance.

Take the last one Manila streets like the Escolta and Intramuros in Binondo. The name Escolta was inspired by the Spanish word "escolta," meaning to escort. The British occupation of Manila passed through this street under heavy escort on his way to head over Manila back to the Spaniards after Britain's 20-month occupation of the city in 1762 to 1764.

Dasmariñas is named after the Spanish governor-general Luis Pérez Dasmariñas who, after buying the Binondo Encomienda of Bisayas, promptly donated to the Dominicans friars a site for a church and parish house, and established a mission for married Chinese-based Chinese and a hospital on what is now Plaza Goiti.

Occupation, virtues

Other famous Manila streets are so named because of their associations with various objects. Sarasate Street in the district of Tondo was where the square dried rice once abundant. Anloague Street was where ripple was once grown.

Other streets were named because of the traders and occupations that were once practiced there. Thus, Anloague was once a place of large trading. Other examples of the Bumbay workers; Jolomonte, the place of the Gobres; and Lubombayan, the place of the bombayans.

Even the names of the north bank of the Pasig River were where the nice windows were located. Asiasa was where the Spanish customers locate your wood. They used to be a street in Binondo called Plaza Calderon de la Barca. The street were captain jones were followed by the Spanish colonial names of streets, opium smoking being legally confined only to the Chinese.

Some streets in Intramuros established the civic and moral values. Among these were Beaterio, meaning chaste and Solidad, in charity. The two streets subdivided each other and the location of the Parian Market in Dasmariñas and Binondo. Other streets named for the names very apparent, etc. They seemed to have been named to inspire those who were entering a living in the area.

Other streets similarly named are Lealtad, Soledad, Misericordia, Palmeras, Amistad, Fuerza, Fortaleza, Concordia, Fuerza, Amistad, Fuerza, Fortaleza, Concordia, Fuerza, Amistad, Fuerza, Fortaleza, Concordia, Fuerza

BFAD insists formula 'risky'; Wyeth Phils. starts recall

By Edvard C. Tanjoco Jr.

THE BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS YESterday maintained that the affected cans and boxes of infant formula manufactured by Wyeth posed a "potential risk" after it finally released a public health advisory on the aforementioned products.

This developed as Wyeth Philippines submitted on Friday to the BFAD its proposed recall plan for the affected milk products which were manufactured at its Canlubang plant between May 23, 2006, and July 26, 2006.

"If the product that consumers hold are produced within those dates and carries total recall for months, then parents should take that product to a Wyeth authorized distributor or retailer where it will be replaced," said Dr. Dolores Cabanos, medical director of Wyeth Philippines.

The recall covers the following brands: Bonna, Bonamil, Bonakid, Promil, Promil Gold, Progress Gold and Promil Kid.

"The necessity of a product recall is that there is a risk," BFAD deputy director Jenilina Bonoc told the Inquirer, quoting to Wyeth's statement that while its milk cans developed rust, the contents remained safe.

BFAD's Undersecretary Alexander Padilla said an investigation was ongoing to determine if Wyeth actually had failed for more years.

In its public health advisory posted on its website, BFAD said "Consumers who purchased any of the said products are advised to return the affected products to Wyeth Philippines." It listed the alphanumeric codes of the 172 affected products and batches in its advisory which was signed by BFAD Director Leticia Garcia-Iyo.

BFAD also advised consumers who observe any unusual incident as a consequence of consuming the subject goods to immediately consult a physician and to report the incident to BFAD.

Wyeth said the corresponding list numbers of the affected products will be communicated to the media beginning today.

Consumers are requested to check the bottom of the can or the top of the box for the date of manufacture and lot number.

Consumers can call the Wyeth Careline at 81-WYETH (81-99384) or the toll-free number 1800-10819-2222 for assistance.

'Bong' Pineda sues Inquirer for libel

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—RUDOLPH "Bong" Pineda, the husband of defeated Pampanga gubernatorial candidate Lilia Pineda, has sued Inquirer publisher Isagani Yambot, editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc and Central Luzon correspondent Tonette Orejas for libel.

Claiming the daily had made "defamatory and malicious imputations and remarks" against him, Pineda is seeking P5 million in damages from the respondents.

Pineda's complaint, which his lawyer filed in the office of the provincial prosecutor here on June 4, stemmed from a story published on Page 1 of the Inquirer's May 29 issue written by Cynthia Balana, "Pineda poll leader killed; windows sour."

The story narrated the May 28 murder of Gregorio Bautista—"upon Mario Ysmael" Bulaon, who was a supporter and friend of R. Eddie Panlilio, the governor-elect of Pampanga. Panlilio defeated Pineda's wife in the gubernatorial race.

In the complaint, Pineda branded as "defamatory and malicious" the reference in the story to his "alleged politics of extortion" and his having killed no "alleged parking lord."

He also called attention to a part of the story which said, "[Bulaon] was killed after reports circulated that Pineda had been calling several barangay captains to meetings to make them explain where they spent the money he had given them and why they failed to make Lilia win."

The portions he also claimed were libelous were the phrases that said he had "built a reputation of being a political kingmaker in Pampanga," that he had "funded the campaign of local as well as national candidates" and that he had "supposedly plotted their ..." Inquirer Central Luzon

Missing Bedol gets ultimatum

From page A1

will issue the show-cause order against Bedol tomorrow.

If the man fails to respond, the charge of infidelity will be pursued, said task force head Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer.

This is the second time that Bedol has shied away from public view since the May 14 elections. De Fiesta Perez complained that Bedol was again nowhere to be found.

More than a month after the last, Bedol has yet to explain the alleged theft of the original copies of the municipal certificates of canvass (COCs) that he said he had been keeping in his office.

The documents are supposed to ensure the 12-0 sweep of the administration's Team Unity (TU) in Maguindanao.

An election supervisor of Maguindanao, Bedol chairs the board of canvassers that would tabulate the results reflected in the CoCs from its 24 municipalities.

He last showed up at the Comelec office in Manila early this month, claiming ignorance of the ransomware from the poll body.

No forcible entry

The Comelec en banc received on Friday the findings of the task force.

"The investigation showed no signs of forcible entry," Abalos said on Cirilo. "Bedol admitted he had failed to lock the door of his office, so he'll be charged with infidelity."

The provincial CoC from Maguindanao has shown all TU candidates leading it in the winning circle of 12, and 19 other candidates, including six from the Genuine Opposition (GO), according to votes at all.

The Comelec has pronounced this "statistically impossible," and even considered declaring a failure of elections in the province.

Abalos said the municipal election officers who showed up before the Comelec fact-finding team in General Santos City last Wednesday testified that all their four copies of municipal CoCs were in Bedol's custody.

They submitted the second or third copies of the CoCs still in their possession.

The special provincial board of canvassers will convene in Maguindanao's capitol Shariff Aguak to make a tabulation of the results based on the new set of CoCs, which, according to the Comelec, appeared to be genuine.

Zubiri or Pimentel

The Maguindanao results will determine who between TU's Juan Miguel Zubiri and GO's Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III is the 12th winning senator.

Meanwhile, however, Pimentel has sued the Comelec before the Supreme Court and sought the enthronement of the Maguindanao results.

Pimentel led Zubiri by over 113,000 votes in the last Comelec tally, but the results from Maguindanao could topple him from the 12th spot.

Abalos said the TU and GO lawyers would question the municipal CoCs before the board of canvassers.

But opposition lawyer Lelis de Lima said on Friday that according to her "highly reliable source," Zubiri did not have enough votes in the "real" municipal CoCs to supersede Pimentel.

"Overall, Zubiri would only have a lead of 32,000 to 40,000 over Koko, which would not be enough to dethrone Koko," she said.

Bedol might squeal

It was a shaken lawmaker searching Bedol or not, De Lima said in explaining to the Senate why allegedly "manufactured" CoCs from Maguindanao were submitted to the Comelec.

The lawyer said her source had admitted her that the real provincial CoCs "mysteriously" the protected CoC that showed the 12-0 TU sweep in Maguindanao.

"We were expecting that it would be the real municipal CoCs that would be submitted to the last finding team. But that would mean the operators putting Bedol in a bind. He would have to explain why the municipal CoCs contradicted the provincial CoC," De Lima said.

"It was a question of sacrificing Bedol or not. But Bedol might squeal. In the end, the operators decided to manufacture the municipal CoCs altogether," she said.

Still quoting her source, De Lima said that while TU had scored a 12-0 whitewash, the real municipal CoCs reflected a much lower number of votes for the administration candidates.

Moreover, she said, there was no zero vote for the opposition. With reports from Artemio Ardaj and Nikko Dizon

BEDOL: Show up or else... Already a familiar refrain.

Corrections

THE ARTICLE "DOJ REPORTEDLY DEFERRED FOR US bid despite pairing bail" (Inquirer, June 22), reported that Judge Ms. Teresa dela Serna ordered the detention facility Camp Bagong Diwa to transfer Jennifer Teresita de Guzman Lim to the East Avenue Medical Center. It was the Quezon City Female Dormitory (QCFD) jail officials that suggested that Teresita undergo a medical checkup before she was admitted for treatment because a medical certificate was required.

***

The article also mentioned that Teresita religiously attended the hearings, except one on Dec. 11, 2006. The correct date is Dec. 13, 2006.

***

The article also said that Teresita "filed an affidavit of desistance." Teresa did not file an affidavit of desistance because an unsworn retract file with an affidavit. There was in fact no affidavit of desistance filed before the court pertaining to the libel case against Teresita.

***

In the June 23 issue, the "On the Job" column of Norman Tallis on Page A7 of the Metro Section, "Stalking the culprit of a closed-door conference"—mistakenly referred to Jose Morales as the spokesperson of Manila Water Co. Inc. Morales is the spokesperson of Maynilad Water Services.

***

In the same issue, a photo caption on Page A6 mistakenly referred to Diana Crespo as Mark Jimenez's sister. Crespo is Jimenez's niece.

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Slow pace of project irks Noli

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO yesterday expressed disappointment over the slow pace of construction of the government resettlement project on a 64-hectare portion of the Sitio Bolitol Proper in Mandaluyong City.

De Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), visited the site Friday and expressed his displeasure at the construction.

He noted that the physical accomplishment for the project's Phases 1, 2, 3 and 4 were only at 9, 11, 10 and 20 percent, respectively.

"This is slow, this here is work deadline. I" De Castro told engineers Elmer Figueroa and Rex Abesamis of HGO Construction and RG Builders, respectively, both from the two firms, other contractors involved in the project are Lourdes Construction and Limon Construction Inc.

De Castro said the housing project should be finished by December in order to complete the relocation of squatter families from along the railways in the metropolis by that time.

"So it's went over, I'll take advantage of the late vacation. You'll have difficulty working when the rain sets in," the Vice President told the contractors.

The construction manager said that 100 out of accomplishment is the difficulty in transferring water from the riverbanks since we do dredge in Laguna, which took three days to settle.

They, however, assured De Castro the project would be completed on time.

Cynthia D. Rickson

10

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SC to 'fine-tune' ruling on EO 464

THE MOMENTUM DURATION OF the military brass to invoke Executive Order No. 464 as a means to muffle an inquiry being planned by military rebel-turned-senator Antonio Trillanes IV may present an opportunity for the Supreme Court to "fine-tune" its earlier ruling on the order's constitutionality.

Chief Justice Reynato Puno said that if there would be "an appropriate case" filed before the tribunal arising from such a scenario, it could "tighten the grip-areas" of its April 2006 ruling on the controversial order.

"You don't wonder there is more to just one case. There will be a lot of fine-tuning," Puno said in an interview with Inquirer reporters and editors on Thursday night.

Response to Esperon

The Chief Justice was responding to a request for comment on Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon's statement that he would invoke EO 464 should the Senate summon him to appear in Trillanes' planned inquiry into the spate of political killings and disappearances under the Arroyo administration.

Esperon told reporters on June 19 that EO 464—which bars officials of the executive branch from appearing before congressional inquiries without the approval of President Macapagal-Arroyo—"is still in effect."

He said that, if ever, it should not be Trillanes but the Senate as a body that would request the executive branch for appearance as an inquiry. He also said the executive branch must also be furnished early on the questions to be asked by lawmakers.

The President issued EO 464 in September 2005, on the day that Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Col. Alexander Balutan testified at an inquiry conducted by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon's national defense committee on alleged election cheating in Hindustan in 2004.

In April 2006, the Supreme Court upheld the right of lawmakers to compel the appearance of officials of the executive branch at legislative inquiries. It said EO 464 perpetuated not only to Congress' right to know but also to the people's right to take part in government affairs.

But the high court, then headed by Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, also said the President had the right to invoke executive belief for officials from attending the Question Hour in the House and in the Senate, but also to request a closed-door session "if the necessity of the issue or public importance so requires." —Will Dalvenzuela

AMID A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL. That, even when Chief Justice Puno (extreme right) with PDI president/CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, court administrator Christopher Lock) was saying that "the constitutional power being canvassed here by the [Supreme Court] may in some case conflict with the legislative power to make laws."

SC to call summit on killings

From page A1

gation or prosecution of politically motivated crimes.

Asked whether the concept of command responsibility will be extended to the summit, Puno countered that the subject would be "one of the most difficult, difficult parts of these rules."

A "second generation of the rules of evidence," a version of the concept of "command responsibility," and giving the aggrieved party more options if the writ of habeas corpus proves ineffective in bearing a meaning period were just some of the ideas that he floated to the embassy.

Puno reminded that the thrust of the summit could "change [the Supreme Court's] relationship with the executive [department] and the legislature."

He said the constitutional "power" being harnessed here by the tribunal "may in some cases conflict with the legislative power to make laws."

The summit will try to draw participants from all three branches of government, human rights watchdog groups, the media, and the military and police, Puno said. International experts will also be invited.

SC's rule-making power

Under the Constitution, Puno said, "the rule-making power of the Supreme Court has been expanded."

"And under this expanded power, we can lay ourselves enough rules that will enhance the civil liberties of the people. We hope not to extend the powers. We want to know exactly the extent of the power," he said.

Puno was referring to details VII, Section 5, of the Constitution, which states that the Supreme Court shall have the power to "promulgate rules concerning the protection and enforcement of constitutional rights, pleading, practice, and procedures in all courts, the admission to the practice of law, the integrated bar, and legal assistance to the underprivileged."

The provision adds, "Such rules shall provide a simplified and inexpensive procedure for the speedy disposition of cases, shall be uniform for all courts of the same grade, and shall not diminish, increase, or modify substantive rights."

"Rules of procedure of special courts and quasi-judicial bodies shall remain effective unless disapproved by the Supreme Court."

Puno also spoke about how he and the Supreme Court plan to address the extrajudicial killings during a talk with journalists in Hong Kong on June 7, on the sidelines of the 12th Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific.)

Habeas corpus

Chief Justice Puno noted that in the case of a forced disappearance wherein the suspect runs an "agent of government," for example, "right now the remedy available to the victim is to file a writ of habeas corpus."

Per procedure, he said, "the courts will issue a writ ordering, let's say, the Judge Development Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines], to produce the body of the person."

"But as we saw the realities, [the lady] will make a return saying the victim is not in their custody...and that is it," he said.

What this means, according to the Chief Justice, is that "the writ of habeas corpus for purposes of the kind of case is not effective."

"So we are thinking, there is a new obligation that should be imposed on agents of government to change of presenting our people," he said.

Perhaps same new rule can be imposed, on state operatives "for them to start all efforts to look for the victim, and let them to make periodic reports to the court on the progress of the case," Puno said, adding:

"A certain standard could be imposed to the performance of this duty. If they fail to keep that standard, then there are sanctions that can be imposed, like citing for contempt. There must be a certain standard to which they must be accountable.

"If we can impose this new kind of obligation on the part of the military, if there is ... backbiting in the investigation, then that can be the subject of remedial measures."

Puno stated another proposed remedy from another Supreme Court justice—for the courts to have the power to issue "protection orders for witnesses" because of extrajudicial killings.

Public support

"If we get a lot of public support, perhaps that will melt down resistance from other branches of government," he said. "I like to think that if we have the people's public support, we can get these new rules off the ground."

Puno expressed the hope that the military would "welcome" this undertaking, especially because it had been "getting beaten and only dominantly but also internationally."

"We have been thinking about this because ... extrajudicial killings are an assault on the rule of law," he said. "It's an [indictment of the judicial system, so we have to do something about it. It's an expression of lack of confidence in our judicial system."

PPCRV PRESIDENT Henrietta de Villa at a press conference with Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borja during the launch of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) Election Monitoring Manual in February

PPCRV: May 14 polls ...

From page A1

In the report, the PPCRV praised the 439,695 volunteers as "living testimony" to the spirit of volunteerism.

It said the election was also a "celebration of collaboration, partnership and dialogue" that the PPCRV had with its Muslim partners in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and the Comelec-accredited National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel).

It cited the Legal Network for Truthful Elections (Lente), the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan (SLB), Radio Veritas, the Catholic Media Network, Social Action Centers of the Catholic church and several Religio Mass-civil society groups and the Assembly of United We which had entered into a partnership with the PPCRV for the elections in ARMM.

"There were shadows cast, a lot of shadows brushing the landscape," said the PPCRV, but of those was the age-old practice of "guns, goons and gold" which resulted in the massive killing of candidates and their supporters and rampant buying of votes not just with money but also with offers of government positions and contracts.

Much of the confusion and delay in the implementation of rules were blamed on the Comelec's "lack of [its own] adequate management of the polls."

"The retention of stalwarts in the Comelec and known 'operators' in its ranks blurred efforts at restoring its credibility and its campaign to reinforce moral values, and sadly negated the goodwill and the good intentions of the Comelec," the PPCRV said.

It said the "chronic failure of elections" in the ARMM highlighted the failure of governments and its agencies, political leaders as well as the religious leaders, and the various sectors to see these "measures and political will to steer the reality that ARMM is" the yearning capital of elections in the Philippines.

It also noted that a "considerable number" of boards of canvassers were able to evade investigation and prosecution by blaming the phrase, "human error."

But it said the program to educate voters was "definitely gaining ground" as shown by the helpus of movie actors and celebrities to win.

"Issues, platforms in governance and programs were beginning to mark a period shift from rather than personalities," the PPCRV claimed.

The PPCRV was created in 1991 as a lay movement for the transformation and renewal of Christian life in Philippine society. It was accredited as Comelec citizens' arm in 1995, but had not been active in the following elections.

Following the controversial 2004 presidential election, however, PPCRV president Henrietta de Villa pushed for the active participation of the PPCRV in the 2007 elections. In October 2006, the PPCRV launched its voters' education and poll watching seminars in parishes nationwide.

Actor, spouse nabbed in Taguig shabu session

By Julie M. Aurelio

TV ACTOR REC DANO AND his wife Darlene were arrested by police Friday night after the couple were caught engaging in a shabu session with two others in an apartment in Alabang Village, Taguig City.

Nabbed along with the couple were PO1 Abdulpatah Tola, 28, who is assigned to SOP-2 of the Taguig City police, and Emily Mojica, 29, a former policewoman.

Insp. Ariel Bati, intelligence chief of the Taguig City police, said the four suspects were caught at around 9:30 p.m. by police officers conducted under Bati's supervision at Room 202, Building 4, Bonifacio Homes in Barangka Ibaba.

But the capture the 37-year-old actor-turned-building-4, but we saw Dano during a drug session instead. The actor was unmistakable," Bati said.

The operatives were unable to find their target, Ibrahim, whose arrest warrant was issued by Judge Pebbles Natan of the Taguig City RTC Branch 70.

Darlene, Mojica and Tola were taking turns taking shabu when caught by police. Tamaris, who, who was also inside the apartment, allegedly yielded three plastic sachets of suspected shabu.

Bati said they had been conducting a surveillance of Darlene, whom they had long suspected of selling illegal drugs.

"Ayaw ko sanang isang artista ang mamahiran ng shabu (It was terrified that Darlene was handling shabu)," Bati said, in a text message sent to the Inquirer, adding that she had been under watch for six months.

Dano, the older brother of actor Ricky Davao and son of actor Dante Dano, refused to comment on his arrest.

"I am sorry. I have not had any dennic sleep. I don't want to talk about this matters yet," a long, good-looking Davao said the Inquirer in the Taguig City police station.

The actor had starred in the 2002 TV series "Basta't Kasama Kita" and in the 2005 drama "Pangako Sa'yo."

'Cycling priest' loses wheels to thieves

BAMO CITY—FR. ARMOO Pricefed, who bikes around the country bringing a message of peace, has lost his bicycle to thieves.

Last week, the 52-year-old priest, who is called "Father Pics," had just arrived on a trip to Baguio City when he learned of the theft which occurred right in the compound of the Redemptorist Congregation here.

"The first thing they told me was that Father Pics had arrived for you. Your bike was stolen," Pricefed told the Inquirer on Friday.

It was the same moments bike, except for the main frame and handlebars, that Pricefed used on his first bicycle road trip from Davao City to the northern tip of Luzon in 2000.

He took another trip last year, biking some 3,000 kilometers over countries and dirt roads across Mindanao, including new flies affected areas, in 21 days. In every town he stopped at he flagged, he offered a Mass.

The theft of his bike would not prevent the Fries continuing with his advocacy, he said.

He is set to embark on his longest bike trip yet in the next two years. This time he will set out from Davao City and pedal to the Caribbean in Luzon and back, taking different routes each way.

In this connection, he has appealed to the person who took his bike: "Please return it because I need it to travel the Philippines," he said. he was not interested in filing charges against the culprit provided he ["just return it."

Dennis Joy Santos, Inquirer Mindanao

MANILA'S FINEST

On the occasion of the 436th celebration of Araw ng Maynila, the City conferred its Patandang ng Sining at Kalinangan Awards to, from left, Manuel Manansala, music; Rodolfo "Dolphy" Quiboloy, film; Augusto Olandar, dance; Myra Beltran, Tanging Parangal; Antonio Limsaco Faballo, Dibre ng Lahi; Danilo Dalisay, sculpture; Miguel Lim, Alejandro Arellano Drumpo, Gulpeano Villegas Award; Esperidion Lazo, Paradise carved bas-reliefs; Ricardo de Ungria, literature; Carmelo Casas, architecture; Filomeno de la Cruz, painting; the representative of the Kalinan Theatre Collective, theatrical arts, and Cesare Syjuco, new art forms. The awards night was held at Manila City Hall.

Raps filed vs 75 suspects in drug raid

By Tina G. Santos

POLICE FILED ON FRIDAY ILLEGAL DRUG charges against 75 of the 7 (!) people arrested Monday in a suspected shabu den in Intramuros before the Manila Prosecutor's Office.

Supt. Roderick Mariano, chief of the Manila Police District's antinarcotics unit, said the 75 suspects, including five of the six alleged maintainers of the shabu den inside the compound, tested positive for drug use.

"The suspects will still be subjected to confirmatory tests, but initial drug tests on them showed that they're positive for drug use," he said in a text message.

Authorities have allowed the 16 others, including four minors, who tested negative for drugs, to go home.

The shabu den's suspected maintainers Zaira Demanila, 20; Romeo Bryce, "alias Baba Dumalo(sic)," 42; Marlon Alcaraz, 29; Samuel Madera, 29; Jovito Gaspal, 32 also tested positive for drugs.

Additional charges for drug sale, possession and distribution, possession of drug paraphernalia and maintaining of a drug were filed against them. A 14th suspect, known only as "Nanay Amelia," remains at large.

Anti-illegal drug operatives, backed up by Special Weapons and Tactics (swat) team members, conducted a raid on the suspected shabu hangar in an area known as Barangay 654, Zone 69 Intramuros, near the south of General Luna Street and not hope to validate intelligence reports that the place is an open market for pre-billed drugs.

Mariano said they had received complaints from school administrators saying illegal drug trade proliferates in the area. He added that majority of buyers from the suspected shabu den were students from nearby schools.

The suspected shabu hangout was located a few meters away from Lyceum University, Letran College, Pamantasan Lungsod ng Maynila until Mapua Institute of Technology.

Meanwhile, Mariano challenged the residents who accused policemen of harassment to file formal complaints against them.

Some residents alleged that they lost valuables during the raid and that some policemen refused to allow them to claim their belongings.

"Instead of airing their grievances in the media, they should go to the police station or file a formal complaint. Anyway, we welcome any complaint and we'll swift to answer them at the proper forum," Mariano said.

Police officials said the area, which had notoriously been declared off limits and contempt of the police, will instead serve as barangay chair Salvador Panelo's.

"The residents have been allowed to go back there, but we'll not have to monitor the area," Mariano said.

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Media men take to the airwaves

EVERYTHING YOU always wanted to know about media, whether from a practitioner's or layman's point of view, will be discussed on "Usapang Media," a 30-minute program that will air every Sun(5, 1000 Hz, from 3:30 to 4 p.m. every Monday beginning on June 25.

The Catholic Mass of Journalists of the Philippines officers and members, including Jose Torres Jr. (CMAMass 91), Ben Bagacina (DZRJ), Carlos Conde (DZRJ) and UP Journalism Prof. Danny Arao, will take turns moderating the segment, Sonny Fernandez, KGB vice chief, and Angel Aquilo of PEOPLEnet.com are project heads.

"Usapang Media" will be a regular segment of the program "Usapang Simbahan" hosted by Ricky Lee.

The segment will focus on issues that journalists face, ranging from killings, libel suits, to the morally wages that they are paid. It will also provide tips for safe coverage and weaknesses of the duties of journalists.

The project seeks to build a base of listeners with a commitment of the station of media. Thus, "Usapang Media" will tackle how media works, how it produces interesting news answers reality, and how it could benefit some people but leave others out.

All episodes will be recorded and the materials made available to interested parties, the MCP said.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, June 24, 2007
Birth of John the Baptist

1st Reading: Isaiah 49:1-6

Isaiah makes you a light to the nations

Listen to me, O islands, pay attention, you peoples from distant lands.

Yahweh called me from my mother's womb; he pronounced my name before I was born.

He made my mouth like a sharpened sword;

He hid me in the shadow of his hand.

He made me into a polished arrow and spoke to his quiver,

He said to me, "You are Israel, my servant. Through you I will be known."

"I have laboured in vain," I thought and spent my strength for nothing."

Yet what is due me was in the hand of Yahweh, and my reward was with my God.

I am important in the sight of Yahweh and my God is my strength.

And now Yahweh has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him.

He said: "It is not enough that you be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob, to bring back the remnant of Israel.

I will make you the light of the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

Responsorial Psalm: Acts 13:22-26

Acts proclaims a baptism of repentance

Then God, "After that time, God removed him and raised up David as king, to whom he bore witness saying: I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will do all I want him to do.

"It is from the descendants of David that God has raised up to Israel, as he promised, Jesus. Before his appearance, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance for all the people of Israel. As John was making his life's work, he said: 'I am not who you think I am; far after me another one is coming whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.'

"Brothers, children and descendants of Abraham, and you who fear God, it is to you that this message of salvation has been sent."

Gospel: Luke 1:57-66, 80

John is his name

When the time came for Elizabeth, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the merciful Lord had done a wonderful thing for her and they rejoiced with her.

When on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, they would have named him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said, "Not so. He shall be called John." They said to her, "No one in your family has that name"; and they asked the father by means of signs for the name he wanted to give. So he asked for a writing tablet and wrote on it, 'His name is John,' and they were very surprised. Immediately Zechariah could speak again and he then spoke out, giving all to God.

A holy fear came on all in the neighborhood, and throughout the Hills of Judea the people talked about these events. All who heard of it pondered in their hearts and wondered, "What will this child be?" For they understood that the hand of the Lord was with him.

As the child grew up, he was seen to be strong in the Spirit; he lived in the desert till the day when he appeared openly to Israel.

Commentary:

John is the person and most devoted to God among the prophets. He belonged to God from the time he was conceived in his mother's womb. The words that came out of his mouth were the words of God. He encouraged men to turn up and hear about conditions and how to build and to plant the new kingdom of God and his child set on the earth. He lived in expectation, waiting, looking, living alert to every moment for the presence and the coming power of God in every detail. He was less preoccupied with ritual and ceremonies than the spirit of God given to us with joy of the moment, and not of John? He we appreciate what the prophet Isaiah down to prophesy what so many others had been brought us to this God? Salvation about serving people towards God, to repay them to the practice of the wisdom of the law and preparing a people for the Lord. May we, your prophet, like this in every manner and community.

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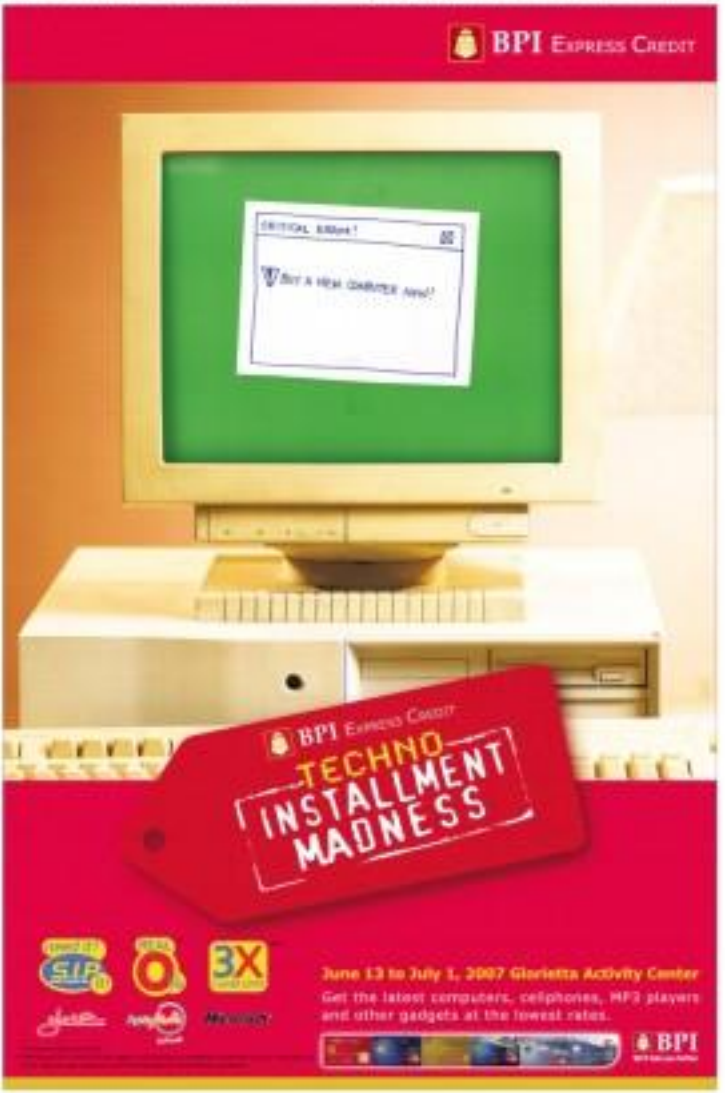
PWU to honor chair Helena Benitez on her 93rd

PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY chair Dr. Helena Z. Benitez will be honored with a "Salute to Outstanding Alumnae" gala-birthday celebration on June 28 on the PWU Taft campus in Manila.

The program, in collaboration with the Philippine Homes Economics Foundation Inc. and the PWU Alumni Association, will begin with a Mass to be officiated by PWU chaplain Father Bernardo Cornejo with welcome remarks to be given by Chancellor Dr. Dolores B. Lucas. PWU president Dr. Analiza B. Rotea will deliver the inspirational message.

To speak on the honoree's accomplishments is Dr. Emily Mendiorozbe, alumnus and former dean of Manila. Dr. Lenora Briones, Ex. Mayor Alfredo Lim, CHED Commissioner Dr. Nona Ricafort.

On Benitez's 93rd birthday on June 27, a Mass will be celebrated to be followed by a testimonial luncheon and program with the theme, "What an Evening!" The celebration will be hosted by the PWU Alumni Chorale will provide the entertainment.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Your e-mail feedback (type in your message) to 2007 (three) at 383 (four)

Unjust anachronism

THE LATE HENRY ANATOLE GRUNWALD, AN EDITOR, once wrote, "Libel actions ... are an ornament of a civilized society [that] have replaced ... in most cases, a resort to weapons in defense of a reputation." But that observation is true of the West, and untrue when it comes to the Philippines. As the International Federation of Journalists pointed out in a recent statement, "The libel laws in the Philippines are outdated, excessive and unreasonable, and they are being often abused by those with power to silence journalists."

EDITORIAL

Just how outdated the provisions of the law are, can be deduced simply by looking at the Revised Penal Code, Act. No. 3815, enacted by the Philippine Legislature on Dec. 8, 1930. When the Revised Penal Code was enacted, not country still had a foreign governor-general, every official was required to swear allegiance to the United States; the only armed forces was the Philippine Constabulary created so that native troops could be used to suppress any agitation for independence; and the country hadn't even thought it possible that it would have, once more, a constitution written by Filipinos, to establish a purely Filipino government.

Measured by the interests of the sovereign power at the time—the United States—and bearing into account the conditions that prevailed in those days, and according for the state of libel laws in other nations in that era, the Revised Penal Code, which deems libel a manner for a criminal, and not civil, trial in the courts, was perhaps neither excessive nor unusual.

But the Philippines, and Filipinos, have moved far ahead from those days; and the assumptions that the law tried to uphold—American sovereignty, a colonial government, upholding an alien authority in the face of the aspirations for liberty of a subjugated people—not only no longer hold true today, they stopped holding true as early as 1930, when we finally ratified a constitution that proclaimed freedom of speech and assembly as among the highest ideals of our nationhood. Those ideals were reiterated in 1973, and without any doubt, further strengthened when our present Constitution was ratified in 1987. Yet the penal code has hardly changed, and the reason why our lawmakers haven't bothered to update the law is clear: it upholds their interests, and those of their friends.

Writing in a paper titled "No Place in the Law: The Ignominy of Criminal Libel in American Jurisprudence," Dr. Gregory Lisby, professor at the Department of Communications of Georgia State University, points out that "The relationship of government with those who are governed may be described in one of two basic ways: either the governors are the people's superiors or they are the people's servants ... The philosophy under which criminal libel developed—authoritarian theory—assumes that the governors are the people's 'betters,' and therefore must not be subjected to censure that would tend to diminish their authority."

To clarify, neither this paper nor the media, at home and abroad, which have called for the decriminalizing of libel, want the calumny deprived of a chance to go to court to sue for damages that result from irresponsible statements. But we object to libel being used as an instrument to stalk those with wealth, power and influence, who use the threat of criminal action as a kind of blunt weapon. Joseph Tkoobis, former correspondent of the Inquirer and editor of Bandilang Pilipino, and now with the Bangkok-based Asia News Network, is currently being held in Camp Karingal in Quezon City yet she posted bail on June 21. The reason? The judge has yet to sign her release papers. A travesty? Yes—but more of the usual.

Lisby clarifies the distinction between libel as an offense that can be brought to the courts to realize monetary compensation to a complainant, and libel as a crime which can land the accused in jail: "Civil libel is a tort; an alleged private wrong. Criminal libel, on the other hand, is an alleged public wrong and the State is one of the opposing parties; it is always the more dominant of the two. The prosecution of a criminal libel thus involves the misuse and abuse of power. It could be blatant, or it could be as subtle as a prosecutor's choice of whether or not libel charges should be brought, and if so, what they should be."

The purpose of making libel a crime, then, Lisby says, "is to chill speech. It does not promote the equality of persons or of ideas. It has no place in a democratic society."

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The pretext of national reconciliation

DESPITE THE MISSELEADING DEFENSE OF THE crackdown personally handpicked by her as her "venerable" defenders in the reprieved Team Unity President Macapagal-Arroyo has consistently refused to take responsibility for members of the House of Representatives and local officials in spite of the people's continued support for her.

The usual apparatus that polluted each election season, coupled with the primary disillusionment for her presidency as reversed several times by the Supreme Court reopened months of her own appointees, hardly had evidence to her re-tagging as reelection. But her local nominations are quick to say that the 10 opposition senators who won in the senatorial elections are as much against the hundreds if not thousands of supporters who triumphed under her banner.

Now relying on her false promises and nominees for an end to the bloodletter that she has herself provoked, she is crying that the end of the elections should signal a new era of reform here in what she calls a "national reconciliation." A sensitive television commercial assures the opposition of "pangangalaga (sensible making) and nothing more, that there is peace instead of politics. She says that what the nation needs after the bitter political campaigns is for unification because her critics but cooperation with her administration.

That angry command is dissuading that the opposition is opposing just for the sake of opposing. Indications all the same are against the government's "reconciliation" politicians only for electoral advantage. This is what Mr. Dante Jimenez, now that the conflict in the last ... over and the election has made its decision. She says there is no one to blame for need.

SEPARATE OPINION

Jaqueline A. Cruz

Bringing and the people should instead join hands in a spirit of national unity.

DRIVE without regard for the people's sovereign will, which she expressed in the last elections, should signal a new era of reform here in what she calls a "national reconciliation." A sensitive television commercial assures the opposition of "pangangalaga (sensible making) and nothing more, that there is peace instead of politics. She says that what the nation needs after the bitter political campaigns is for unification because her critics but cooperation with her administration.

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As power as it may sound, her suggestion is hypocritical and undemocratic. She would at least, entertain in favor of abject conformity with her as from a supposed client. In the name of compromise, she would suppress any questions about her motives and reject objections to her methods as treasonous opinion. She would embellish the shroud of repression that punishes to the citizen's the right to speak in unison on any "matter that touches the form of the existing order."

There is nothing wrong with national reconciliation as long as it does not impair the opportunity of the citizens, whether from the high echelons of power or only the bowels in the dunes, to articulate his views on how the government should be run. That is the right and responsibility regardless of whether he disagrees are ruthless or plainly foolish. Enforced obedience to supreme orders while the soul within rebels has no place in the republican society that's supposed to result under the liberties of the people more shadow than substance and well-concerned facade.

Compliance with GMA's suggestion is of course out of the question. Defiance from the opposition, objective journalists just on government pundits, can be a real and not only a convenient pretext for the Bill of Rights, and ordinary citizens, unencumbered to speak freely—none of them will hesitate to continue questioning, criticizing, condemning or scolding, as their conscience dictates them. But the price of liberty Macapagal-Arroyo to President of the Philippines.

And the question then not are legion. She has yet to explain the Garci tapes and her continued "hope in judgment"; the presumption and the partition of the Senate election count; the P700 million unliquidated fertilizer fund; the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard scandal; the increasing recklessness of human rights and the murders of media practitioners; the rising salaries of cops and the arrogance of the organized soldiers; the still unpunished rapes in the Jetter House of which she is also commander-in-chief; the recklessness of Joel Pelal, and other serious issues as of her administration the world could under the sun.

National reconciliation is too high a price for the suppression of the right of the citizens to question the acts of the President of the Philippines who is their servant and not their reverend majesty. Her answers should not be decoded in silence on the pretext of national reconciliation.

Neighbors and relatives

JESUS'S TEACHING THIS DAY THAT SEEMS SURROUNDS the man who and the woman he sees. Once married, a is the wife who talks, and the husband listens. After some more years, both husband and wife talk, and the neighbors listen.

. . .

In today's Gospel (Lk. 1, 57-66, 80), we are told that the neighbors and relatives of Elizabeth rejoiced with her at the birth of John the Baptist. These neighbors and relatives were probably the same ones who despised her when she was unable. They were now getting to choose the name for the child. The story shows that even then, as now, neighbors and relatives played a big role in our lives. If we let them, that is.

Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, when asked what he wished his son to be called, was deaf and unspoke: "His name is John." Even the neighbors and relatives questioned his decision and protested, he was unbending. Why? Because he listened to God. The human law of our decisions and plans should be the law of God, and not even the society of people, even if they are our neighbors or relatives.

. . .

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

There are all sorts of neighbors and relatives. There are those who respect and support us, and there are those who simply think they own us. There are also those who have taken upon themselves the duty to criticize and condemn us. There are even those who do it all "in God's name." Our lessons from Zechariah is that we listen to people, but in the end, we listen to God.

. . .

There will always be people who tell us like us, or what we say, or what we stand for. But we must stand for the truth, in season and out of season. I suppose we all know that prosecutors is part and parcel of a prophet's, and for that reason, as Christians life. He never forewarned of this in the Lord, and we were also mentioned to pray for those who persecute us. And how do we react the truth does damp on us? Even then simply in those truth.

. . .

Let us continue to pray for Fr. Leonardo Perez, an Italian PIME missionary in the Philippines who was kidnapped months in this code "Jade" is that he is a priest, and he speaks of gospel truths and values. In our own congregation (Society of the Divine Word), our Indonesian Fr. Francis Madlon was killed last Palm Sunday in Kalinga. I recall, too, how our two Filipino confreres, Fr. Heru de Guzman and Fr. Raymund Fronda, were ambushed and almost died in Angola in one of their mission trips. As do we sympathize with the families of these victims of incidents, terrorism, manipulation, lies, abductions and unprovoked killings—we reap the truth from coming out.

. . .

Remember Petrina Soriano, the blind girl who used to raise dollars for years a day? In my hearing Masses in Vancouver, Canada recently, people were telling, "Ama in the Spirit" whenever she prayed over them, and she was not even aware of it. Her gifts from the Lord are unfolding. I have witnessed the simplicity and obedience of this child. She listens to God. She receives instructions from the Lord. In times, we consider parents funny and fail to understand what she prays through, but like Mary, they listen ever more to God than to neighbors and relatives.

. . .

Fourteen-year-old Petrina Soriano lies the end on the head when she says close eyes—anything she does is a mission. Because of mission, she uses her suffering as her offering returns at seventh age. Because of mission, she doesn't mind going to distant places and going through inconveniences to bring God's message of hope and love. Because of mission, she chooses to listen and please God rather than people.

. . .

Take a look at people who have only understood as sense of mission. These are people who are bound to lead "successful"—but vain, shallow and empty—lives. Take a look at the friend, take a look at people who see life as a mission from God. The only one be holding a "successful life" in the eyes of the world, but their lives are significant and meaningful in the eyes of God.

. . .

The challenge for each and every one of us is to keep asking what God wants, and see to much what we want, or what our neighbors and relatives want. If we don't live up to this challenge, we finish ourselves as the level of selfishness, mediocrity and vanity.

. . .

We all will lose our Creator someday. When will He close? Will He tell us how we have proven Him to be our friend? Will He tell us that we have used His gifts to His glory? Will He tell us that we have loved Him, and never rejected Him? Let us live in such a way that when this tremendous and fascinating moment comes, He will greet us with a smile and say, "Welcome, my friend and loving child!"

. . .

Think about it. When you get up again for what people say or do, you have been set up by the evil one. Learn to God and you can stay in peace and keep your peace.

. . .

A sentence with the Lord

Remind me Lord that true life is about planning you, and not so much myself, my neighbors and relatives. Amen.

Japan, the new and the old

LAST SPRING I WROTE ABOUT MY VISIT TO Tokyo to thank the Japanese government for the P100-million unconditional grant to help build the Philex Development Center in Baguio. Therefore, my wife Lee and I penned a postal note of Japan envoy Ryozo Kato, one of the Japanese war operators in the world. Unbeknownst to me, he had left Manila for Japan more than a month ago to be with his wife Yuriko, who was dying of cancer. Kato, a "bull" of both aviation and nationalist Japan, we stayed in many seats like Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto, as well as in small cities, like Takayama and Kanazawa. We motored through the Japanese Alps, passed by country villages with thatched-roof houses, and toured at the Shinto Castle and the Emperor Museum of Edo, and were shocked at the atomic bomb destruction in Hiroshima. We rode the Shinkansen or the 200-kilometer per hour, the ride was unusually quiet and comfortable. It has good. Repair could be reached from Manila to an hour.

All the hotels we used (Hilton, Hilton and hotel had high-tech toilets that featured heated seats, temperature-controlled cleansers, bidets and sprays, and even a built-in buzzer to let others know you're done with your business. Some even had sophisticated gadgets like mini water massage hoses and devices that measure body fat ratios.

Three of the hotels provided "magnetic" pillows, which were supposed to help relieve tiredness. But the Grand Hilton outdid the others by offering a "Pillow Menu" from which guests may choose a: (1) cylindrical, Japanese pillow made of buckwheat hull; (2) octagon combined with mesh, made of cypress chips; (3) white thick feathers; or (4) square, flexible polyurethane that conforms to the shape of the sleeper's head.

Another technological wonder: the vehicle-to-curb height detector or global positioning system (GPS) with large monitors and voice guides. Thus, accidents would very get less at the underlying concrete stones of Japan. Generally, the Japanese do not give names to their streets or numbers to their houses. Instead, they use a unique "theme" system that is too complicated for my understanding.

Being fond of Japanese cuisine, I savored the best sukiyaki, Japanese beefsteak cooked in a sweet sauce, and sashimi, or raw fish, at the famous Tsukiji Fish Market in Tokyo. It is probably one of the biggest food exports in Japan. On the other hand, our Globe trade seemed to go from bust to boom in the second (1), a reasonably-priced (about P1000 dollars) I relished. I now hope that our entrepreneurs would introduce it in Manila.

Traditional Japan. Despite being the second largest economy in the world, Japan still maintains unique cultural ties. Perhaps the most important Japanese value is no which, roughly translated, means "harmony." Historically found in right, from communism, the Japanese highly prize group cohesion, conformity and consensus. The Japanese once equivalent of the English word "no," because an extreme negative is anathema to consensus. Rather is there an elevated word as "yes." He does not necessarily mean "I agree," short of the "no" is considered impolite. ("Ambivalence").

Because the Japanese hate to displease, since a direct refusal is a gap between "what is said" and "what is to be said." In a country where harmony is paramount, people tend to hide their true feelings. Not only official rhetoric or outside the group's infallibility. It is up to the listener to understand the real intention and not accordingly. For example, we came late (3 minutes in Japan) for a show (instead of saying "no" to our request for admission, the hostess told us that the theater was unpredictable and that the next day would probably bring in the vacations. That was her indirect way of advising us to come back the following day.

Talking early are extremely important, not so much to identify but to show the look and relative status of the given. It is only in this manner that one is sensitive to act and behave correctly properly. Japan is a decision-style of speaking with an ideal, as in there a truth is superior and virtual equal.

Tipping is not common in Japan. In fact, waiters and bellhops are sometimes offended when tipped. Having is uncommon and the sometimes more important than words. It was quite surprising from "hello" to "goodbye" as "thank you." Eminently courteous, waiters go out of their way to help bundling strangers.

Expressway Japan. Steadfastly pro-American, the Japanese government is headed by a prime minister. Lumbering is considered two-house legislature parliament a convened by an independent Supreme Court. Though group-oriented, the people are nonetheless outspokenness in their individual rights.

The main religions are Shinto, an indigenous faith with ancestor worship, and Buddhism. About 2 percent of the population is Christian. Due to their "monotheistic," many Japanese and call the Son's Home, mainly Christian and the Buddhists."

When I was still practicing law and childhood in business, I used to frequent Japan. Then after my retirement, I am pleased to have come back, and also, this time, with my wife. Lee and I (with a woman) of concrete and overwhelmed, no-man of rational charm and Western innovations, even after all Eastern religions and an exemplar of liberal democracy, a paradoxy of human rights and an affirmation of free trade. It promotes equal-handedness but remains in unilateral values, thereby establishing a distinct Japanese lifestyle.

• • •

Comments are welcome at chedjaen@gmail.com

Birth and death

At Large

Rina Jimenez-David

Maybe that's why a woman attends relatives rather round her while she's pregnant and during delivery. Perhaps there's something in the female psyche that knows this is a time of artificial and danger, for both mother and child.

• • •

HERE there is not yet "a standardized, evidence-based PDC protocol," there is some consensus on some of the more effective (and counterproductive, or worse) elements of the "DOH-Ina Ong Advocacy" on the postnatal care for all new moms should include "immediate and exclusive breast-feeding, rooming-in of infant, hygienic care of the umbilical cord, and timely identification of danger signs in mother and newborn."

The "Ina Ong" advocacy, in addition, includes immunizing and referral for complications such as excessive bleeding, pain and tenderness, counseling on how to care and nurse a baby, and advice on family planning before starting, newborn care and breast-feeding problems.

Among the most feared elements of any PDC program is its aspect of skilled health providers, including midwives and health workers, who can give much-delivered mothers and babies access to medical attention in case of complications. This is necessary especially in developing countries, like the Philippines, because most deliveries are made at home, and rural communities are made. Some may even prevent a mother from leaving her home to seek medical help.

In the author's part, "In most developing countries ... postnatal care may only occur if provided through home visits because geographic, financial and cultural barriers typically limit new mothers' access during the first six weeks postpartum."

"The neonatal element of postnatal care for newborns and its women are already known and established," say the authors. The issues remaining, largely concern the integration of PDC programs into existing maternal and child health (MCH) services. Also, there is the question of how to provide the critical skills of leaders to give priority and recommend more of the budget to saving the lives of mothers and newborns when it comes more.

Elections as optical illusions

Public Lives

Randy David

IF WE CONTINUE TO HOLD ELECTIONS THE next (the Commission on Elections held them in 2010 and 2007), it won't be long before we begin to believe that all elections are nothing but optical illusions. They look real, we experience them as real—but they are all really a mirage, a concept we made possible by our senseless beliefs and the modern technologies we employ to conduct and count votes.

It would be difficult to maintain any form of autonomy, let alone a nation, if people were led to think like this. Yet, by failing to invest adequate effort in maintain the credibility of elections, the country's political elite is doing precisely that. I think of them as a show, a fiction—which indeed they may have become in the Magandanao.

But, to be video here, I think there's something we are passing from this to one desperately struggling to keep the image of the electoral process a credible possibility despite. Our passing manifests is with the various stages of the electoral process is making it possible for us to carefully follow the sequential results, with a view to catching him in the middle of the act. Then, massive election results, dogs for the May 2007 election turned in on the tabling of the municipal and provincial certificates of canvass in specific provinces, instead of spreading their gaze immediately.

Even in the case of the 2004 presidential election, the public tabling of the "Hello Garci" conversations generated tremendous outcry, but failed to spark any enduring outrage. Why? I think it was because the picture of conspiracy and deception that emerged was brought to us only as video in some people were brought to us. To be able to see the picture, people needed to have some background knowledge of the different phases of the electoral process and—e.g., what happens to the ballots after they are cast, what's the precinct level, how precinct level results are transformed into municipal certificates of canvass (COCs) and by whom, and how municipal COCs in turn become the basis for preparing provincial COCs. Only if one follows the whole series of steps of the electoral process does one begin to be aware of the countless blind spots where any suspicion may carry out a quick and full demand.

The media were not remiss in their duty to put the story of the Garci tapes in context. Various investigative and in-depth reports contained the data and exposed a pattern of fraud that should have been unmistakable to anyone with eyes to see. But, in the act, the suspicion was made but the public has not acted on such fine performances, gambling on the assumption that only when backed the truth is worked, and on the suspicion lingers on the stage long enough to be noticed.

The audience, however, has become wiser. And so in 2007, in spite of the same tricks around of being applauded, only to an extremely unpopular. Lindsay Bedal, Magandanao's master performer of election magic, was unable to pull off the trick. The country's opinion, but everyone sees what he is doing. Worse, like a ghost from the past, he brings back to the consciousness an ominous images of a rotten national election that the sting among so many participants is still very much alive.

In the last days of the summer break, while cleaning my study, I stumbled upon my notebook notes/minutes of the Hello Garci tapes. Interestingly, I threw them into the dustbin, held in the past, and I had an uncontrollable urge to look at it moment in the summer's hit that is long gone. But, as it is my usual habit of discarding things (of which I had spent so much time), I tried those again and decided that they are as unconvincing as today's news. But more than that, in the light of recent events, they would mean real. In fact, Bedal is no longer just a threat to have a short-lived career. Remember that well-done on May 26, 2004 he wrote Garci to allow him to be elected.

Mickey Mike, 40-plus-year-old wife to that in Cotabato:

Garci: Hi ate!

Mickey: How then di

Garci: Mga ate, pero ang mga nagpa-recording ng 40 Hectare. Mga ate na lang si Jary Bedal.

Mickey: Ah pero? So mali yung figures sa Namfrel?

Garci: Ah siguro Ate Jary lang si Tong kasi ang mga ate ang mga ate ng Jary Bedal. Kasi si Jary Bedal ang unang kausap ni Tong. Kaya ang mga ate ang mga ate ni Jary Bedal.

Mickey: Ok, pero ... (Unreadable)

But hang in there. Here comes Garci's indication dancing. The man indeed used them as nothing more than an amusing and short attempt to get the attention of the people. Then, the mystery of Mrs. Jose Clarito Macapagal-Arroyo explained her role in an election official in 2004. Such a reading, however, is said to be the light of what we now know about Lawyer Bedal and the outcome of the 2007 Magandanao election for senators and candidates.

The electoral did take place in Magandanao or elsewhere in the country. The voters have withdrawn to the precincts and, and their votes collected at the municipal and provincial canvassing centers. What is in question is whether there is any correspondence between the persons elected to seats in and the entities reported to the municipal and provincial COCs.

We have seen enough to believe that a magical touch were to "work again in the 2007 election. We no longer need to be deceived.

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Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

G8's miracles

TWO WEEKS AFTER THE G8 LEADERS SET IN GERMANY, an impression is running that they wrought a political miracle in Heiligendamm. Three things were supposedly saved at the G8 summit—not Kyl-Darfur, but real and ominous tensions between the United States.

It seemed that a world government had met on the shores of the Baltic Sea. In the face of European unity, George W. Bush was transformed from a terrorist into a benign citizen concerned, from hell to heaven, indeed, replied the change of climate by Bush is a clear indication that European and assumed a new role as world politics. But recent attacks are natural, instead, the G8 will avoid confrontation to boost its television.

In Russia to America, however, where people are not really more religious than in old Europe, belief in the Heiligendamm miracle is less widespread. Indeed, Americans were rather indifferent to the summit. The reason for this is not only the public aversion of the political newspapers' constant treatment of Bush as the villain, but also the fact that the ordinary Americans now have of President Bush to be less to thank for man. Because of Bush's perceived impotence, Americans believed that no real decisions could be taken at this summit.

What, then, was decided at the summit? To begin with, the G8 countries decided to "seriously examine" coming to half-worldwide emissions by 2050! This is a very long time to produce. This compromise was supposedly hammered out at rough negotiations. But translated into everyday speech, "examine" and even "seriously examine" means nothing other than "to postpone."

For what happened is that America's president, both before the summit and quite publicly in it, successfully spurned quantifiable goals and refused to make any concrete emission. So in the end all they can tell kids is that "governments are doing nothing" and failing to participate a decision to a "serious" way. This is how international conferences sometimes work.

Thus, sadly, Europe's contribution to the conversion of America's pointless recklessness change was very limited. After all, whenever confronting Bush has had his arms to do with climate, as in the US it would be difficult to change it now a real issue. Indeed, the governors of Al Gore and California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger have undertaken more to Bush's weakening than all the efforts of the European leaders combined.

Another real light that the EU governments' agreement to negotiate a successor treaty to the Kyoto Protocol within a UN Framework is not a copy of real progress either. This is to because members of Bush pointed to the EU Congress still oppose the massive Nothing without Europe. This position will not change after the new president of the US.

The only concrete decision close when was congress per capita emissions in the United States and China rather than their numbers. China may be the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the time on the United Islands, but we per capita emissions are those of an emerging economy. What is the US? Per capita, China is the "factory of the world's largest economy and emitter of greenhouse gases—to absolute numbers and its per capita one—it is taking over behind the largest emerging economy with regard to a disaster policy does not bode well for the future.

China—Europe is not the only place where the G8 summit made a mess of things. It was the same up to the summit. Germany announced that it would increase its foreign aid for Africa by 750 million euros. This was the only concrete step, one deserving of praise. But otherwise the G8 only made just the development they had taken two years ago in Gleneagles. Instead, for example, the EU has involved only to open a genuine chance. And ultimately, there is nothing to indicate that encouraging progress is difficult to any change.

The German presidency of this year's G8 cannot be held responsible for this state of affairs. Under the prevailing circumstances, it is hard to see how more could have been achieved, given the political conditions back home of the summit's participants.

So the summit's outcome was by no means specific. What really mattered to Heiligendamm were two other issues: where by any passive world government but the fact that the days of the "global" are over, at least for the time being.

Politically under economically, China and India no more represent today than come European G8 members. Indeed, Europeans should understand that this viewpoint is spreading around the world, particularly on the other side of the Atlantic.

President Putin's behavior at the summit clearly demonstrated what he thinks about the Europeans, not too much. While the European demand of mounting a backlash's relationship between the United States and Russia, the Russian president was determined to resolve the questions of the US, and had to do with Bush and Kosovo bilaterally with the United States.

As in the old Cold War days, Russia would love to see once again in the negotiating table along with America. The Europeans, with their dreamily and weakness, are perceived as an irrelevance. Therefore, if the Europeans want to influence the way their weakness and dreamily, they will happen that Europe will become more active in the international agenda.

This year's G8 is over. Then December things will start getting serious. Environment ministers from around the world will meet in the new UN climate conference in Bali. And then we will see whether the miracle did occur at Heiligendamm or if the summit was, indeed, yet another "political comedy play." *Project Syndicate/Institute of Human Sciences*

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Joschka Fischer was Germany's foreign minister and vice chancellor from 1998 to 2005. A leader in the Green Party for more than 20 years, he is now a visiting professor at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School.

They Said

Ridiculous

"It is ridiculous for some congressmen, whose House failed the Filipino people, to argue that the intent of a law voided their negligence and lack of will assumed to over-interpret it."

—Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, after congressmen accused the Senate of bypassing the House of Representatives' failure to pass the bill on charter conditions

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan F. Sarmiento Jr.

Party-list system: Mathematical absurdity

By Oscar Franklin B. Tan

IMAGINE A LAND WITHOUT MEANINGFUL ELECTIONS. THE people, "singing the songs of angry men," throw off a dictator's yoke, with nuns holding flowers and tourists leading a peaceful rural agrarian exodus. Euphoric as democracy returns and leading in global achievements, the people proclaim that they shall never again be stripped of their sacred right of suffrage. In fact, they create to socialize a radical new system that fills one-fifth of the House of Representatives with marginalized sectoral representatives.

Imagine, however, that when the ballots were cast and the votes were tallied, over half the seats in this special batch of only fifty-one (51) congressional seats were left unconstitutionally empty. The category describes the Philippine party-list system, which currently has seventeen (17) representatives from fifty-five (55) seats.

Section 5(1), Article VI, Section 5 mandates that, of the total membership in the House, currently 220 seats, shall be composed of representatives "elected through a party-list system of registered national, regional, and sectoral parties or organizations." Since the 2004 elections, how ever, only 22 party-list representatives have been seated, for 10 percent of the House.

Before filing certificates of candidacy (COCs) for the 2004 elections, Commissioner Rene Sarmiento of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) told the Supreme Court in its 2001 Ang Bagong Bayani decision cited, "The party-list system is a mechanism (or tool designed specially) to give members of the great masses of our people who have little wealth, but also no visible means to become rich, the chance to have their voices heard in the halls of legislation."

Republic Act No. 7941 (the party-list system law), however, does not vest the Party-List Act's Republic Act No. 7941 incomprehensible means implementing formula. Section 11 reads: "The first twenty (20) seats (or procent of the total votes cast for the party-list system shall be entitled to one seat each. Provided, That those garnering more than two (2) percent of the votes shall be entitled to additional seats in proportion to their total number of votes." In addition, no party may receive more than three seats, aside from those in the Bicol bloc, "to prevent any party without fielding candidates in the entire electoral district."

The Party-List Act has a 2% threshold, but 55 seats x 2% is an impossible 110%, hence so many seats are left unfilled

Impossible 2-percent threshold

The Commission on Elections sees the current threat it could not fill the required 20 percent of those seats. The culprit is Section 11(b) of the Party-List Act, which provides:

A party must receive at least 2 percent of the votes to qualify for a seat. However, 55 seats multiplied by 2 percent is 110 percent of the votes, clearly an impossible figure to have continuers.

The 2-percent threshold appears found under subpoint 2.01 votes of the House—20 percent of 220 seats—is 44 votes. Fifty-five (55) voted for 99 seats (2 percent per seat).

However, even 55 seats still fall short. In the absolute minimum in which a party can receive 2 percent of the votes, the number of votes for 55 seats is 2,750 votes. The minimum 44 for party votes and receive 0.01 percent of the vote to cast of the 20 million registered 2,011 persons who will be left empty. In other words, the 2-percent threshold, implemented literally, means that only 2 percent of the House requisite to merit population growth.

German system

Some Comelec delegates discussed the German parliamentary election system, which has a similar threshold designation mixed-member winning parties have sufficiently large constituencies. The system, however, allocates seats for the entire parliament and deals with a handful of the country's representatives. This is completely unlike the Philippine system, in which each of the over 200 members is elected from a single district or very small portion.

Further, while the German system distributes a second vote at the national level, the German formula numerics results from the second vote to the regular district elections, and totally additional seats to parties that receive a higher proportion of second votes at the national level than their votes at the district level, which empowers disproportionately large parties. Under the German system, small parties are completely different each of a party's members, the Philippine formula facilitates inconsistency with the Democratic Party-List Act, which proportional is meeting legal standards.

Supreme Court confusion

Thus, the supposed concept of a 2-percent threshold cannot be viewed with consistency especially given the formula the Supreme Court has framed the three-seat cap, which is the requirement in the Philippine system.

The Supreme Court contributed itself caught between the cycle of the party-list law's 2-percent threshold and the Constitution's 20-percent requirement. Appallingly, it ruled in its 2000 Veterans Federation Party decision that the 20-percent requirement was merely a maximum figure. The decision specified, for instance, the supreme law must uphold the party-list law, an arbitrary law.

Worse, the Supreme Court promulgated an unclear formula that would confuse lawyers, accountants and economists than the law does. the total party-list votes allocated.

Errors

The formula the Supreme Court has applied in the coming seven weeks can be misunderstood. It allocates one seat for each 2 percent of the votes that the party-list obtained, and it allocates one seat additional seat for each additional two percent of the votes. Then the first party's votes is subject to a separate formula, and fails to ensure that no party receives more than three seats.

Worse, the Supreme Court's formula for this equation formula fails for equation formula fails for proportion to the mathematically absurd 20 percent seat value.

For instance, formula for allocation seats to each other qualifying party formula for one seat each then allocates additional seats by dividing each party's vote by the first party's vote, then multiplying the result by the first party's seats (rounded down beyond fifth decimal). Then second seat (and subsequent) votes then for each requirement, the same formula is applied proportional and also rounded to enough to get the votes graphed. (See chart beside Figure 3)

Using Bubay's percent 6. 14 percent, the formula would allocate its seats in accordance with 0.199 percent, one (1) seat; 2.00–4.04 percent, and two for those with seats with 6 percent.)

The formula also allocates only the first party receives the maximum number of seats, in third seats from other second party obtains between one-three, it will still receive only two. The Supreme Court's formula ensures no formula are practically equal, since one cannot allocate fractions of seats.

Worse, the Supreme Court's formula effectively compels Bayan Muna with 6.14% to receive only two seats, while Bayan Muna with 5.98% will be allocated three seats under the Supreme Court formula. Again, both Bubay's percent and Bayan Muna's percent are practically equal, since one cannot allocate fractions of seats.

Worse, the Supreme Court's formula ensures no formula

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

5 provinces in the dark on poll results

BENDING SPACE
A pupil makes room on the space available for him at an elementary school in Tanza, Batangas. Congestion in classrooms in the town was made worse by the burning of a school building believed perpetrated by top officials to pave the way for the election victory of a pro-administration candidate. MARY JOY SANTOS

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE LEAGUE OF PROVINCES OF the Philippines (LPP) warned the Commission on Elections (Comelec) that the failure to proclaim winners in the gubernatorial race of five provinces could lead to disorder.

LPP spokesperson and Batanes Governor Vicente Gato Jr. urged the Comelec to proclaim the winners to prevent a "vacuum in leadership," which might lead to "chaos."

Reelectionist said the 81-member LPP is concerned about the possible impact of the delay in proclaiming the winning candidates on the issue of office of the current governors set to expire on June 30.

He noted that more than a month after the May 14 elections, recounts in the provinces of Negros Occidental, Ilocos Sur, Quirino, Laguna and Cagayan have not been proclaimed.

Protests, protests

The Comelec has yet to proclaim the winners in most of these provinces due to pre-proclamation protests, said Escudero.

Sorsogon Gov. Sally Lee, Antique Governor Exequiel Javier, Ilocos Sur Governor Deogracias Victor Savellano, Quirino Governor Dakila Carlo Cua, Negros Occidental Governor Joseph Marañon and Cagayan Governor Edgar Lara and Ilocos Sur Governor Luis Singson were in the recent elections in Cagayan.

Pimentel have also mulled the postponement of the proclamation of gubernatorial candidate in Laguna between reelectionist Gov. Teresita Lazaro and Edwin Ilisanco, which was delayed by protests to ballot counts. The Ballot count has been resolved and canvassing was to resume tomorrow.

The Comelec on Friday denied a petition filed by the camp in favor of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos to declare elections in Biñan a failure.

Vacuum feared

At least 38,000 votes have yet to be counted in the town. Mayor Marlyn Alonte is leading the mayoral race with 20,781 votes against Jose Benito Perez, Alonte's son-in-law, who has 23,499 votes.

The newly-created province of Shariff Kabunsuan has been placed under Comelec control for election-related violence and security concerns. Now among the three candidates—incumbent Gov. Bai Sandra Sema, former Datus Bedol Mayor Suno Mastura and former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao governor Zacaria Candao—has been proclaimed.

Escudero said the early proclamation of the winning candidates would "prevent harm to the delivery of basic services to the people" and would give justice to the winners.

It would also prevent "legal controversies and uncertainties," that might arise on June 30 on who will assume the gubernatorial post, he added.

He said that they do not want to have a "vacuum in leadership that might spur uncertainty and confusion among the people in these areas."

"There is a growing impatience and anxiety among the people. People are quite concerned that it is taking too long for the Comelec to resolve the issues," Escudero said in telephone interview.

He said the league does not want the tensions and uncertainty to erupt in violence, especially between supporters of contending parties and candidates. With a report from Mike Catherine Gallaga, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Cordillera plans massive reforestation

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE threat of global warming has added a new dimension to renewed efforts of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to save the Cordillera's dwindling forest cover.

Samuel Peñalbel, DENR regional director, said the department does not want to see the region's forest cover and fight the effects of climate change.

"Our tasks have doubled. We will plant more trees to save the forests on the ground and to protect the air above," he said.

He said this year's massive tree planting would take off from the success of last year's Green Philippine Highways program that saw the planting of trees along major roads in the Cordillera and other parts of the country.

A total of 17,761 people and groups in the region participated in the program and planted 1,368,198 different species of tree seedlings and ornamental plants.

Peñalbel said the program would be expanded to cover all towns, watersheds, communal forests, protected parks and other areas that need to be rehabilitated.

The DENR and the National Irrigation Administration on Friday signed an agreement for a joint effort to "improve" the region's forests and watershed resources.

The Cordillera has 1.32 million hectares of forestland. It also hosts the four major river systems—Chico, Agno, Bhagui and Abra—that provide water to several dams in central Luzon.

Peñalbel said trees play a crucial role against global warming.

"Trees absorb a lot of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere particularly during their growing years," he said.

The challenge is to keep Cordillerans' forests green to maintain ecological balance and at the same time help ward off the consequences of global warming, he said.

He said the program in the region would include the propagation of indigenous tree species that, he noted, are also slowly becoming extinct.

Among them, he said, are pinoline, Amesanthes orbicular, narra, mahany, mahogany, antipolo and ipil-ipil which are common to the region.

He said planting these indigenous species could help prolong the life of Cordillera's forests.

Gov says mills should learn lessons on pollution

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—GOV. JOSEPH Marañon said the temporary closure order issued by the environment department against Negros Mining Co. for air and water pollution should serve as a warning to other sugar mills in Negros Occidental violating environmental laws.

The governor of the region said the cease-and-desist order on NMC was timely as it was done during the Environment Week and showed that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources was serious in ensuring compliance with environmental provisions and conservation laws, he said.

The CDO issued by Reyes was served on NMC last Thursday.

Marañon said the mill may, however, still refuse to sit down and talk to stop pollution. The NMC could not use its financial difficulties as a reason for its failure to meet water waste standards, he added.

NMC president Abelardo Reyes said NMC was addressing the problems to ensure that the mill would be ready for the milling season expected to start in the first week of September.

Reyes, in his order, was responding to a complaint of Canlaon City Independent residents regarding ash falls allegedly emanating from the chimney stacks of the company.

Reyes said Thursday that NMC was also committed to putting up a cooling tower to stop the waste pollution.

"It is also committed to put wet gas scrubbers in its six chimneys to prevent air pollution, he said.

However, he said, NMC would need an approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission for expansion for pollution prevention measures since the company is under rehabilitation.

Family of OFW facing execution seeks help

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—THE family of an overseas Filipino worker facing execution in Riyadh has appealed for help from Malacañang.

Merly Esteves, mother of four children and wife of OFW Joanes Esteves, said expenses have skyrocketed since Joanes arrested Aug. 6, 2006, for killing his employer and he stabbing the two children of his employer. The children survived.

Merly believed the case had something to do with the decision of her husband to go home.

Until now, she said, she could hardly believe what happened.

The family of Pastor Fer asked the help of Sultan Barkiat mo. Pua Mangudadatu.

Mangudadatu appealed to the President to take action this week.

The governor said the Department of Foreign Affairs and Malacañang should intervene. gats Aquilino Z. Davis, Inquirer Mindanao

Comelec sets hearing on fraud rap in Lanao Norte polls

COTABATO CITY—THE COMmission on Elections has scheduled on June 28 its hearing for the exclusion of election returns from three towns of Lanao del Norte in connection with the still unresolved congressional race for the first legislative district that is being fiercely contested by administration candidate Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo and opposition rival Vicente Belmonte.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos said Friday that the poll body's second division, composed of Commissioners Rene Sarmiento, Nicodemo Ferrer and Jaime Tadeo, has been tasked with resolving the Dimaporo-Belmonte pre-proclamation case.

The opposition said the election fraud was masterminded by poll officials based on documents retrieved in the house of Bingo, a Comelec-Iligan employee in Lanao del Norte.

The special board of canvassers, in its official tally, had declared Dimaporo winner by more than 7,000 votes against Belmonte, whose lawyers have petitioned Comelec to stop Dimaporo, Lanao del Norte's incumbent governor, from being proclaimed on allegations that election returns in the three towns were manufactured.

Abalos said the second division, chaired by Tadeo, will hear the oral arguments of both camps, especially on the Dimaporo legal opinion that the poll body has no jurisdiction over pre-proclamation cases.

Legal counsel Pete Quisumbing Quiazon cited two Supreme Court rulings, Pimentel v. Comelec and Lazatin v. House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal, as basis for his client's pre-proclamation appeal denying petitions for exclusion of the certification of canvass in the three Lanao towns.

Quiazon also argued that election laws provide that the House electoral tribunal is the only authorized body to handle pre-proclamation appeals, and not the Comelec which lacks jurisdiction over the case.

Quiazon said the law is clear that the poll body has no jurisdiction over Belmonte's pre-proclamation case.

The 1987 constitution of nine members (three SC justices and six congressmen).

Lawyers Ismael Javier and Opi Mayopanas have joined Quiazon's position that the HRET "shall be the sole judge" in pre-proclamation controversies involving candidates for congressional seats.

They also expressed the belief that the Comelec is likely to proclaim Dimaporo as the winning candidate in the May 14 elections for congressman in the district immediately after the June 28 scheduled hearing in Iligan City, Manila. Charlie C. Delima, Inquirer Mindanao

MEMBERS of the Board of Election Inspectors and poll watchers from different political parties receive their ballot boxes from Kapasigan town of Lanao del Sur for the canvassing of votes in the provincial level. NOEL JAMILLANES/INQUIRER MINDANAO

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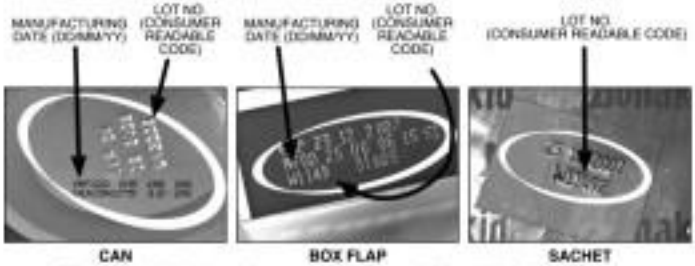

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W1169	06-1169	07/23/06
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W3085	06-3085	05/25/06
W3102	06-3102	06/16/06
W3104	06-3104	06/17/06
W3105	06-3105	06/17/06
W3106	06-3106	06/19/06
W3107	06-3107	06/19/06
W3108	06-3108	06/20/06
W3109	06-3109	06/21/06

BONAMIL™

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MD No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W0110	06-0110	06/21/06
W0110I	06-0110	06/22/06
W0111	06-0111	06/22/06
W0111A	06-0111	06/22/06
W0112	06-0112	06/22/06
W0113	06-0113	06/23/06
W0114	06-0114	06/23/06
W0115	06-0115	06/24/06
W0116	06-0116	06/25/06
W0117	06-0117	06/25/06
W0118	06-0118	06/25/06
W0120	06-0120	07/14/06
W0121	06-0121	07/15/06
W0122	06-0122	07/15/06
W0123	06-0123	07/15/06
W0124	06-0124	07/16/06
W0125	06-0125	07/16/06
W0126	06-0126	07/17/06
W0127	06-0127	07/17/06
W0128	06-0128	07/18/06
W0131	06-0131	07/19/06
W0133	06-0133	07/21/06
W0134	06-0134	07/21/06

BONNA™

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MD No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W4133	06-4133	06/07/06
W4135	06-4135	06/08/06
W4138	06-4138	06/09/06
W4140	06-4140	06/11/06
W4143	06-4143	06/12/06
W4145	06-4145	06/13/06
W4151	06-4151	06/27/06
W4156	06-4156	06/29/06
W4160	06-4160	07/01/06
W4161	06-4161	07/01/06
W4162	06-4162	07/02/06
W4166	06-4166	07/09/06
W4167	06-4167	07/04/06
W4169	06-4169	07/05/06
W4170	06-4170	07/05/06
W4171	06-4171	07/06/06
W4172A	06-4172	07/07/06
W4174	06-4174	07/09/06
W4176	06-4176	07/10/06
W4177	06-4177	07/13/06
W4178	06-4178	07/11/06
W4179	06-4179	07/11/06
W4180	06-4180	07/12/06
W4181	06-4181	07/12/06
W4182	06-4182	07/13/06
W4183	06-4183	07/13/06

PROGRESS™ GOLD

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MD No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W12013	06-12013	06/08/06
W12014	06-12014	06/10/06
W12015	06-12015	06/10/06
W12016	06-12016	06/10/06
W12017	06-12017	06/11/06
W12018	06-12018	06/11/06
W12019	06-12019	06/11/06
W12020	06-12020	06/12/06

PROGRESS™ GOLD

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MD No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W12021	06-12021	06/13/06
W12022	06-12022	07/16/06
W12023	06-12023	07/17/06
W12024	06-12024	07/17/06
W12026	06-12026	07/18/06
W12027	06-12027	07/19/06
W12028	06-12028	07/19/06
W12029	06-12029	07/19/06
W12030	06-12030	07/19/06
W12032	06-12032	07/21/06

PROMIL™

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MD No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W8020	06-8020	07/25/06
W8021	06-8021	07/26/06
W8023	06-8023	07/26/06

PROMIL™ GOLD

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MD No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W2012	06-2012	07/12/06
W2013	06-2013	07/13/06
W2014	06-2014	07/14/06
W2015	06-2015	07/14/06
W2016	06-2016	07/14/06
W2017	06-2017	07/14/06
W2018	06-2018	07/14/06
W2021	06-2021	07/16/06
W2022	06-2022	07/16/06
W2025	06-2025	07/21/06

PROMIL™ KID

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MD No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W13034	06-13034	03/08/06
W13087	06-13087	06/14/06
W13088	06-13088	06/14/06
W13089	06-13089	06/15/06
W13090	06-13090	06/15/06
W13090A	06-13090	06/16/06
W13091	06-13091	06/16/06
W13092	06-13092	06/16/06
W13093	06-13093	06/16/06
W13094	06-13094	06/17/06
W13095	06-13095	06/17/06
W13096	06-13096	06/18/06
W13097	06-13097	06/18/06
W13099	06-13099	07/01/06
W13102	06-13102	07/02/06
W13105	06-13105	07/04/06
W13107A	06-13107	07/06/06
W13108	06-13108	07/05/06
W13109	06-13109	07/05/06
W13110	06-13110	07/06/06
W13111	06-13111	07/06/06
W13112	06-13112	07/06/06
W13113	06-13113	07/07/06
W13114	06-13114	07/07/06
W13115	06-13115	07/08/06
W13116	06-13116	07/08/06
W13117	06-13117	07/09/06
W13119	06-13119	07/10/06
W13120	06-13120	07/11/06
W13121	06-13121	07/13/06

Website: www.inquirer.net/mindanao

Editor Jon Basilgord
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alcantara

INQUIRER Mindanao

Street kids learn life skills in center

By Chonnie Santos
Davao City

AT 13, DODONG (NOT HIS real name) had been in and out of prison for various offenses.

He became a street child by choice, wanting out from the life that always bore hard for him even when he was living with his parents.

During his early days on the streets, he became involved in a gang that consumed petty crimes mainly because of their subsistence and addiction to solvent.

The future looked promising when an American woman took him in. Under her care, he enjoyed toys and expensive clothes. But the lull of the street was too difficult to ignore. Dodong left home anew.

One day, Dodong and his friends stole a motorcycle. Many of them were later arrested and were locked up for several days.

Now mature, 15 and the story is very similar to that of Dodong. At 13, he also came to prison.

But Alex and things changed when he came to the Bahay Pasilungan in Sirawan that. Unlike Dodong and several other children are now learning something worthwhile.

Bahay Pasilungan is a private effort aimed at keeping destitute children away from crime, abuse, danger and other frightening experiences.

Before Bahay Pasilungan was established in 1999, Fr. Pet Ovalle, a Maisi missionary, had been reaching out to children in the streets.

Then he realized that the children needed more than just inspiring words. He started a drop-in center for the children.

Lawyer Antonio Pernos, chair of Bahay Pasilungan's board of trustees, said the building that they now occupy was built in 1992 through donations, including those from the social fund of then President Corazon Aquino, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the Ateneo Foundation and the Hayden family.

Rev. Richard Joyal, a Canadian Maisi missionary who now heads Bahay Pasilungan, said his experience in a similar facility in India has been helping him run the facility with colleague Oscar Rabacca.

In 2002, it became a charter institution.

Since then, Bahay Pasilungan volunteers and social workers had sheltered, fed, sheltered and counseled dozens of children.

The children are also taught values-based activities that overcome their problems. They are also taught livelihood skills, such as shoe-shining, baking, motorcycle repair, hair grooming and others.

Most has learned how to cut hair and now earns money, which helps send his younger siblings to school.

"I am very grateful to them, my life has really changed," he said of the staff of Bahay Pasilungan.

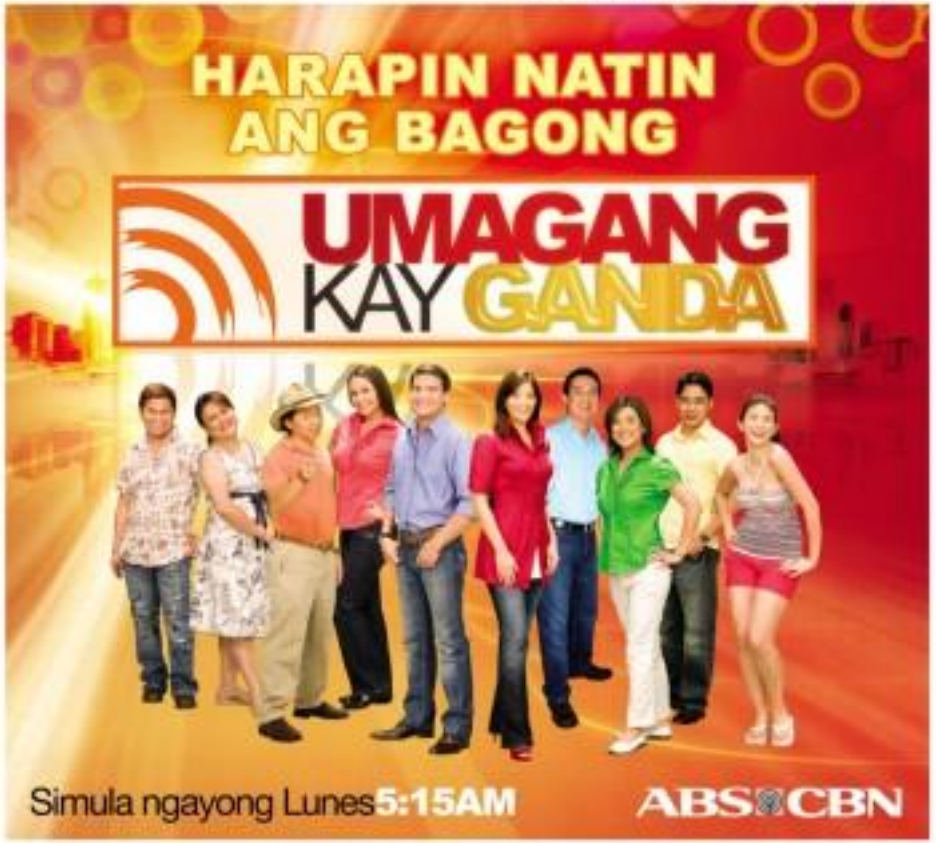
"There are lots of success stories about children who had already gone out. They became productive citizens," Pernos said.

"It is hard work, but I know there is dignity in it," social worker Marivic Salazar said.

"They don't want rules, but we have to give them life skills and values formation if they are to improve in life," she added.

Joyal said they really need more help to continue the endeavor, not only financially but also in terms of volunteers for their outreach programs.

Those who want to help Bahay Pasilungan can call up (082) 2212927 or (082) 2211442.



Clark execs to seal off oil tanks where 3 scavengers died

CLARK FREEPORT—SECURITY officials here have sent patrol teams to cordon off portions of an oil depot formerly operated by the United States military.

They also proposed to dismantle and cut off three idle tanks there to prevent a repeat of the accident that killed three men on Wednesday.

The recommendations to evaluate and remove or cover the structures with creosote came after a tractor team from the Philippine Rene grabbed out the third and last victim at 9:30 p.m. on Friday, according to Senior Supt. Eleanor Tayo, chief of the public safety office of Clark Development Corp.

It took the PNR team almost 45 hours to recover the body of Jozel Gracia, 27. The two other victims, Ronnie Dollete, 38, and Renato Gepon, 37—Jozel's cousin—died on Thursday. They died after the tower of Tank No. 3 split and crashed on them.

The three men, together with five others, were reportedly looking for tanks of metal to sell when the tower's side bonce through the cast of unsyphone tanks.

The fire erupted by flaring on a narrow underground canal, which they used to enter the tank.

It was 32 feet high, 137 feet in diameter and embedded in the mountains of Barangay Anpeng Bean, Angeles City, which is southwest (not north as earlier reported) of Clark's perimeter fence.

Tayo said rescue workers entered the tank, swam in murky rainwater that had pooled inside and searched for the bodies amid mounds of metal that threatened to collapse again.

He said officials in Sapang Bato have been asked to advise villagers not to go near any of the three tanks.

There, as well as the six sent by the Coastal PET, belonged to the petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) farm of the United States' 13th Air Force.

The POL, which used to have a storage capacity of 20 million gallons, extends to the former John Hood Base in Candaba across Clark through a metal pipeline. Dennis Orcino, Inquirer Central Luzon

A MOUNTAIN of garbage rises in Smokey Mountain in Tondo City, a reminder of the many tragedies that befall the poor who try their luck in rummaging through other people's wastes to earn a living. ARCHIVE PHOTO BY RICHARD MADELO

Terror strikes picket line in Cavite factory

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—Two officers of a striking union were wounded after armed men wearing bonnets attacked their picket line inside the Philippine Economic Zone Authority industrial park in Rosario, Cavite over the weekend, a nongovernment organization said.

In a statement sent to the Inquirer, the Workers Assistance Center (WAC) said two of the unidentified knife-wielding men attacked Florencia Arevalo and Renaverecion Rinvin, secretary and president, respectively, of the Bagkahalaang Manggagawa sa Chong Hua.

Fr. Joel Dizon, WAC executive director, said the two suffered lesions on their arms and wounds on their heads.

The attack happened at around 3:30 a.m. on June 10, Sunday, Dizon said.

Dizon said at least eight men with cowboys and knives who appeared to be drunk alighted from a van with license plate UHD 390 and attacked the striking workers who were manning their makeshift tent.

The attackers, Dizon said, told the workers "at kanilo point while the men started dismantling their makeshift tents, throwing all their personal belongings and food in the street.

Before the men left, they threatened to kill the workers if they didn't bring their sinumbong sa pulis to an end.

"Their attackers left them (the workers) laughing," Dizon said.

Just a few hours after the attack, around 20 men wearing bonnets again attacked the still traumatized workers at around 3:30 a.m. on June 10.

This time, the attackers had M16 assault rifles and were Filipino uniforms.

Arevalo said the men were on board three vehicles with the license plates covered, apparently to avoid being identified.

"They rounded up (us) in one corner of their attack and ordered (us) to lie face down while the leader placed the barrel of the M16 rifles pointed at (our) head. The armed men... totally demolished the remaining structures of (our) makeshift tent...," Arevalo recalled.

Arevalo said when they tried to question the men, one of the attackers boasted that they were paid P2 million to destroy the worker's picket line.

She said the men "were challenged" them to seek police assistance.

"They (the attackers) threatened to kill us one by one if they still use our strike in the morning. They also robbed us of our cell phones, camera, wallet, and other personal belongings," Arevalo lamented.

Arevalo also claimed that the P2 million payoff allegedly paid by the management to stop their strike was the third payment made by the owners of CWTI.

She said they received information that CWTI management first paid P50,000 as bribe to labor officials to unseat their union.

She said another P100,000 was given to some government officials to declare their strike as illegal.

Arevalo said they believed the attackers could be members of the Pera police or military and police agents hired to harass their members.

Sought for comment, Chief Insp. Andie Madrideo, Rosario police chief, denied having knowledge of the attack.

Madrideo said the workers did not seek any police assistance when the new attacks supposedly happened.

"But even if it did not happen, we do not have any jurisdiction over the Peza area. The special economic zone has its own police unit," Madrideo said in a mobile phone interview.

CWTI has been on strike after the management declined to enter into a new collective bargaining agreement and terminate the dismissed union officials who were dismissed in September last year. Abigail Kwiatkowski, Inquirer Southern Luzon

2 commanding generals see no threat in Trillanes

By Jaime B. Bulanbot
Inquirer Visayas

DIPLOMATIC CITY—TWO MILITARY generals here believe that senator-elect Antonio Trillanes would not be a threat to the armed forces of the Philippines.

Instead, they see him as an added asset in the military organization.

Lt. Gen. Cardino Lana, Central Command chief, told the Inquirer that Trillanes, along with other former military officials who made it to the Senate like Gringo Honasan, Rodolfo Biazon and Rodolfo Biazon, would be helping push for further reforms in the AFP.

Lana said the AFP is looking to as a positive way the reasons Trillanes was elected in senator despite his involvement in the Oakwood mutiny.

"We always think about the negative. But as we can see it in the positive way, maybe the reason he was voted by the people is because he could be change in the military and running the parliamentary process and not through a coup d'etat. It happened in Senator (Gregorio) Honasan," he said.

Aside from the civilians, there were soldiers who really voted for Trillanes and the senator-elect's landslide in the May 14 election was the military's concern.

But the military official clarified that this does not necessarily soldiers sympathized with Trillanes' cause. Despite what he had done (in staging the Oakwood mutiny), Trillanes received support from the military because he is part of the organization.

"We, in the military, we have this so-called 'esprit de corps' and when you enter the service there is this kind of relationship. Naturally whatever persuasion one is taking, the soldiers would still look at you as a soldier," Lana said.

Lana earlier denied reports that the military officials have discouraged their subordinates from supporting Trillanes and instead pushed for the administration-bet Team Unity.

He said the soldiers were given a free hand to choose their candidates without pressure from their superiors.

In a separate interview, Brig. Gen. Arthur Bisnar, Air Force 203rd Tactical Helicopter Wing commander, dismissed speculations that Trillanes would destabilize the government.

Bisnar said Trillanes would push for reforms because he would articulate the needs of the soldiers.

"It is normal for soldiers to vote for him. He serves as their hope and they have expectations that he can do something for the betterment of the organization," Bisnar said.

SUPPORTERS of Trillanes show their support as they rally in front of the Commission on Elections in Manila June 15. Trillanes, 36, who allegedly led a failed mutiny against President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2003, was officially declared senator after winning a seat in recent elections while facing charges. REUTERS/ERIK DE CASTRO

8 remote Eastern Visayas villages to get solar power

By Vincent S. Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—EIGHT REMOTE villages in Eastern Visayas that have not yet been energized will soon get electric power from the sun.

Solar-powered electricity would be made available before the end of this year in Barangay Suntan in Maqubo Island in Catbalogan, Samar and the remote barangays of Limarao, Mayo and Lubang in Calbiga town of Samar province; and Bunay and Sto. Tomas in Las Navas town and Hinapoton and San Roque in Catubig town, both in Northern Samar.

Three eight villages, which are within the Agusan-Pulangi Concessionaires (APC) of the Department of Agrarian Reform, have remained without electricity due to their isolation.

Three Samar and Northern Samar APC's have been identified as beneficiaries of the DAR's Solar Power Technology Support (SPOTS) project, a \$26-million project funded by the Spanish government through the 2005 SPOT Memorandum of Understanding on financial cooperation.

The Department of Energy and the National Electrification Administration are assisting the DAR in implementing the project.

Phase I of the SPOTS project was implemented in October 2003-2005 in 40 APC's in 26 provinces. The second phase, which is now being implemented, covers 44 APC's in 13 provinces in the Visayas and Mindanao, which will benefit around 15,000 households.

Catalino Dabon Labro, the assigned SPOTS monitoring and evaluation coordinator here, said the project uses photovoltaic energy system as a means to introduce rural and livelihood projects in the APCs.

She said providing these APCs with electricity would not only allow residents to study at night but would also enable parents to engage in productive endeavors even during nighttime like dressmaking, weaving, embroidery or processing food that could be sold easily the next day.

Under the SPOTS project, the beneficiaries communities will get streetlights and electricity in their homes, barangay halls and school buildings.

Warrants pile up for arrest of vice mayor in estafa

BUKIDNON—CITY—ANOTHER warrant of arrest was issued against Vice Mayor-elect Mila Antonio of Antigua, Mangagoy, after more people she had allegedly victimized used her for large-scale estafa.

In the arrest order, Judge Tita Villacin of the regional trial court here also recommended no bail for Antonio and her associate, Lourdes Dinopino.

Judge Jessie Corsino of the RTC Branch 43 here earlier issued the arrest of Antonio and Dinopino following the complaint of a businesswoman and her sisters that the two had defrauded them of some P10.28 million in the last two years.

The latest complainants—Carlen Calica, spouses Agnate and Nenita Pico and Tristan Gallardo—alleged that Antonio and her associates took some P5.95 million from them as "investments."

In his sworn statement, Calica, 34, told an agent of the special task force office of the Bukidnon provincial investigation that he was introduced to Antonio by Dinopino sometime in 2005.

At that time, Calica said, Antonio just wanted to borrow P20,000 from him at 10 percent interest for two months.

After two months, Calica said he was told by Antonio that she was selling parcels of land in Barangay Kaulayanan here to the Ayala Land Corp. and if he wanted to invest, his P180,000 would become P1 million in just a few months.

Calica agreed and counted 10 brown envelopes as Antonio, Dinopino, Hoda Ayo Mlanco and Bagir Baraska then August 2005 to December 2006 totaling P4.8 million.

Mlanco and Baraska have been included in Calica's complaint.

Calica said part of the money he gave to Antonio and associates came from his sister, nephew and niece.

The Pico couple, who invested some P1 million, was told the same supposed land deal with Ayala Land and the same meetings for their money.

In a joint affidavit, they said they became suspicious when Antonio was spending millions of pesos for her candidacy as vice mayor in Antigua town.

"We confronted her and requested her to immediately return our money but she assured us that our money was safe," the Pico couple said.

In April, the couple said Antonio gave them her truck worth P360,000 as partial payment for their investments.

Baraska (?), said he and his wife Imelda invested P400,000 for the purchase of a lot in Barangay Bantog in Antigua that Antonio was supposedly offering to a group of companies associated with the Gokongwei family.

"Antonio promised that our money will be returned after 30 days with a pledge of P1 million in that one month," (the Baraskas) furnish said in a sworn statement.

He said he later discovered that Antonio and Dinopino did not have any transaction with the Gokongwei group and Ayala Land. Rudolf Cabangbang, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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Aplus METRO

Editor Ener C. Dipasupil

HOW than a decade after it closed down, the "Met" is undergoing renovation.

'Grand Dame' of theater to reclaim lost glory

By Jillian W. Lopez

THE CURTAIN WILL SOON RISE on the "new" Metropolitan Theater at the Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila.

Now undergoing a major "facelift," the "grand dame" of Manila's theaters is on its way to being restored to its former glory.

The Art Deco building underwent its 1931 by Juan Arellano was badly damaged during war times and rebuilt in 1978 by former First Lady Imelda Marcos.

But the "Met," in the "grand dame" of Manila's theaters, is finally restored to, till runs down to the ugly and closed down in 1996 following a long-running dispute between the Government Service Insurance System and the City of Manila over its ownership and management.

In 2004, the GSIS and city government finally agreed to set aside their differences and, with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), signed a tripartite agreement on a work action plan for the Met's restoration.

The NCCA granted funding of P90 million for the project. Of the total, P6 million was earmarked for feasibility and engineering studies while P44 million went to City Hall, which is in charge of the all-encompassing work.

Work delayed

The studies were completed by February last year, said Richard "Ramon Jimenez Bautista, NCCA executive director of the restoration. However, actual work began only last March.

Despite the delay, Bautista said that things were now moving faster. He added that the contractor hired by City Hall has just completed relocating the steel.

"We wondered how it looked like before, including galvanized iron sheets, but using 2007 methods," said Bautista. "It's really laying the foundation that took time. (Now), punching holes to keep using ballasts. (We can't like if some) just like that."

Renovation of the Met is now in its second phase. This involves fixing the theater's audiovisuals, including electricity and plumbing.

After that, Bautista admitted, the city government would have to scrap up more funds if the restoration is to be completed.

He added that it would take at least P210 million to completely restore the Met, and the sum not include the seats and curtains in the theater.

"After the P90 million grant, (which is to say City of Manila (it's up to the City of Manila), he said.

Bautista added that the NCCA was anxious to talk to incoming Mayor Alfredo Lim to get his support for the project.

According to him, convincing the IRR will be a tough job, probably harder than raising funds for the project. Some parts of the ceiling have caved in, there are cracks in the floor, the stage is unsafe and the whole building needs a major job. Some sculptures by Italian artist Francesco Monti, displayed all over the theater, are also in need of repair.

Now a stained-glass skylight, part of the theater's façade, was not spared by Typhoon "Milenyo" last year. Irreplaceable sofas, broken armrests, tiles and old signs litter the rooms of what Bautista refers to as the "Imelda Marcos wing." Marcos, former governor of Metro Manila, had renovated several rooms into a "lounge." The hallways to chandeliers are still intact, as are the full length mirrors and tiles inside the powder rooms.

A recent cleanup of the Met's 7,000-sq m area still revealed the astounding details incorporated by architects, an architect into the structure, Bautista said.

Filipinized Art Deco

"It's Filipinized Art Deco," he noted as he pointed to fiberglass set stuck on the ceiling showing mangoes, bananas and bamboo. The original, he said, was probably made of wood but was replaced in the late restoration process.

Bautista could only guess, because even the 1931 blueprint for the theater was destroyed in the war. The plans and other files on the 1978 Met are also gone but he is hopeful that the engineering studies will help them in the reconstruction.

Several theater groups he added, have already expressed interest in staging their plays once the Met is opened to the public. Adding to heyday the theater could accommodate 1,670 people; 640 in the orchestra, 116 in the lodge and 754 in the balcony.

Famous names in the entertainment industry highlighted a lot of shows that were featured in the Met.

One of those was "Bohdal Adlip," in 1969 which featured an all-star cast that included Rodaan Acevedo, Jaime Fabregas, Metring David, Celeste Legaspi, Rene Requiestas, Nova Villa, Eliel "DAGING" Guzman Moreno, Cecilia Iñiong, Teodoro Agbayani and Melanie Marquez.

"Bohdal Adlip," was directed by Behn Cervantes, one of the country's top directors.

Though the Met will serve primarily as the site for the arts, Bautista said some parts of building, such as the Bonifacio wing, could be leased for activities.

"But I don't just bring it back to its original glory. You have to think about its purpose," Bautista said.

He remained mum, though, about the chances of a change in the local government, with Mayor-elect Alfredo Lim soon to be at the helm, will not hamper the three agencies' efforts in restoring the Met—especially since the Bonifacio appointment will be in office for 22 more years.

"They must pursue it, no matter who sits in City Hall," he emphasized.

THE STAGE of the "Grand Dame" which, hopefully, will soon serve as a venue for shows and plays.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2007

E-mail us: global_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph

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"Before, we just branded (the cousins of Filipinos abroad) to send us money on a home drive. But now I label it as a loan-human. (Tags)."

JEPH GILVEZ TAN, January 2007

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and whenever words can be contorted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Thinking out of the box led to balikbayan business

By Mike Morales

WHEN HIS MOTHER TOLD HIM not to send gifts anymore because of the hassle she went through, Ramon "Mamet" Ungco pondered how sending packages could be simplified. He thought outside the box, which resulted in the donor-to-donee balikbayan box business.

Now that his business is in full swing, Ungco, 52, has returned home to start "taking it easy" and do volunteer work, a way of giving back for his success overseas.

Ungco's solution is his subsidiary, Port Jersey Shipping Inc., as being the pioneer in the donor-to-donee balikbayan box service business in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, for some 20 years.

Expensive shipping firms

Port Jersey Shipping has been a household name for the Filipino community when it comes to donor-to-donee building-on-box service.

Before he started his business in New York, Ungco worked as a shipping supervisor of shipping companies in Indonesia right after finishing an accounting degree from De La Salle University in 1976.

In the 1980s, many sent to the Philippines used to be very expensive as shipping companies charged at least $200 per box. Ungco saw his mother's washing machine as a gift months after he arrived in the US.

Sleepless on the job

"When I called her up to check if she received the washing machine, she told me not to send gifts anymore. 'It took her almost a month to bring (it) to my gift.'"

That's where he thought of providing a service that would bring a customer's package right at his doorstep, he says.

Ungco says his hours are durable enough to put in at least 3000 pounds of goods and the store is right for a person to carry it.

One by one, people called him up and asked him to get their packages. By October 1985, he had secured 300 boxes locked up in the container he rented.

"I handled all the boxes into the container starting at about six in the morning and finishing 11 a.m. the following day," he says.

He compares the life of a typical Nine Yushon in a rest room, and fifty packs were even much faster for immigrants like him because "all you think about is work."

He recalls how his sleeping hours were drastically cut to two hours a day because of the heavy workload, leaving him to himself, running his business and doing house chores.

After 9/11

"I've had asleep most of the time because my sub-conscious thinks of the tasks I have to do," he says.

"Sometimes, I feel that my conscious's enough because I had a lot of things to do. It was getting stressful."

The lack of sleep wasn't a big deal for him during those days, pointing that he was as strong as a bull. Back home, he's not.

Business was stable three years after it took off. In 1985, he says, Congestion came for it wasn't enough to keep his business down. But he hoped for better that's why when there was no opportunity, he joined back here to check the Los Angeles on the other side of the Bulk and to get a sense of home.

Fearing for his family's safety, Ungco decided to settle here permanently after the World Trade Center attacks in September 2001.

"Before, most people considered (the US) as the land of opportunity. But now, I think it's the land of the 'praising' (punished). They have become very security conscious ... for suspicion," he says.

"Before, when you exit the immigration (counter) and the airport, you'll feel, you'd smell, that you're really in America, the land of the free (where) you can do a lot of things. But now, it's different. It's a lot of people look at you."

Time to take it easy

Armed with the experiences of living overseas, Ungco notes that life abroad can be taxing.

"Whatever you've started doing in the US will be the only thing you'll do for the rest of your life," he says. "Work will not give more to the point that you wouldn't realize how time passed by. When you ask yourself what had happened (to your life), you'll realize that all you've done is work."

Aside from the security threat, Ungco says he recommends to the country to "start taking it easy" now that he's older. Here in the Philippines, one could have a maid to take care of the household chores and a driver to shuttle him wherever he pleased, among others, he adds.

Ungco is still active in the operation of Port Jersey Shipping making sure the business runs smoothly.

LOVES IN A BOX. Ramon Ungco (left) browses the catalogue with one of the packers of one fellow Filipinos in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut for their loved ones anywhere in the Philippines.

He doesn't regret coming back home in spite of the country's political and economic problems. There's no place like home, of course.

"Even though the problems we have here are more complicated than America's, we are Filipinos. We are going to get by somehow. We can (observe the Tagalog). We strive to make (life) better."

By Christian V. Esguerra

There's a Munding in every Filipino worker

HARIETTE RIVENTOR, who known as Tita Munding, (extreme) of her signature character, Bahe Beding, mirrors what's good, funny and lovable about Filipinos abroad through the Kumedyante Lagayan on-line.

CONTINUED ON A23

SAN FRANCISCO—THE sharp, salty smell wafting from the fat suitcase caught the attention of the customs officer at an airport in the United States. It's that smell again.

"What's that? 'Bagoong' (fish paste)?" he asked the time owner of the luggage, a wiry-poly woman from Pampanga.

"No. It's saffron, it's 'tapa' and 'dating,'" she replied. "They're gifts for my friends and relatives here in the US (you-hoo)."

Routine inspection revealed more "pasalubong" (not-tasty) impossible arranged to fit inside the luggage.

The "first layer" had fish crackers, "polvoron," "dinigang" mix, and Bee Barrang. The second, a small mirror of an Ignore man in a barrel, wall curtains of the Last Supper and a gigantic pair of wooden spoon and fork. And the third? Hand towel, perfume, and three paper—all souvenirs from the plane.

"Souvenirs from the plane," the grinning woman told the customs officer.

An inspection of the fourth layer of the suitcase would have revealed even more: the toilet mats cover from the plane, (a-dinding) the bride jacket placed under the seat (three souvenirs, Ash-ha).

Meet Tita Munding Gampires Filipino.

Unknown to many outside the back home, she is the latest product of stage-remember Nanette Inventor's favorite characters and immigration lines. Munding, however, has been going around places where Filipinos fell, entertaining them with Pinoy reality stand-up comedy.

Life in the land of milk and honey

In the process, the character of Tita Munding has become quietly popular among OFWs, from Hong Kong to Vienna, London to Australia. Her latest gig was a four-day tour of the United States last May as part of the Kumedyan Concert Series produced by Stationery-man Manila Bulletin Publishing.

Sincerely, as Tita Munding, was a big hit in Atlanta City where she first performed along with the APO-Hiking Society and Heart Evangelista. There was no-stopped laughing from start to finish.

Who's under Tita Munding clothes?

"She mirrors what's good and funny about the Filipino abroad," Inventor tells the Inquirer during a break at the Kamuning Bakery Cafe in Quezon City. She was such a big hit that Nanette got invitations as performer in the Intramuros Colony for two more years in a row.

Nanette envisioned Munding to adapt to the complexities and character of Filipinos abroad as she performed in Chinese and mixed clubs, she was an "open" (no-part) (governess), in Rome and London, a cook and housekeeper in Australia, she's a caregiver—of kangaroos.

Consider the "origin" of Tita Munding, a billion-non-nonsense usually-opening her mouth.

It all began one sleepy day at Barangka Drive-in Mandaluyong somewhere in Pampanga. The family matriarch, annoyed by Raymunda the midwife, gave birth to a huge baby girl who would later be-come Bahe Beding. Aida Dela Luz Evangelista visits the Pasig Blue TV Production. Nanette has been known for since the 1980s).

Unknown to the readers, there was a second baby a twin sister of Beding. The mother dying shortly after the second delivery. Raymunda, a spinster, took the twin sister home and named her "Raymunda Jr." or "Munding." The elder sister to her dad and grew up rich and snooty.

What followed in the life of Munding, told in rich detail and pedestrian humor, is the stuff, which, any honest Filipino in the US knows, is perpetually fixed in his or her consciousness.

There's a Munding in every Filipino. She is the Filipina working in a nursing home in Sydney, the domestic helper in-living-long, the entertainer in Japan, or the white-collar employee in upscale New York. Munding, too, is the Pinoy in America transfixed on "telenovelas" broadcast from home.

Like their funny impersonation in Munding, Filipinos all have collected stories to tell about life in the land of milk and honey.

Daily rush

Carlos Villanueva, 45, is a cook at Philippine Cafeteria, one of the most popular Filipino restaurants in New Jersey. It's a job quite unfamiliar to him, considering that back home, he had never done anything much cooking beyond family gatherings.

But his recipe of "pinakbet-adobo-sea, bi-lumpiang-ubod, and pancit-bihon" has been a consistent favorite among Inquirer-cans in the area since he started working in the restaurant 13 years ago.

In the West Coast, 30-year-old Gil Vi-

CONTINUED ON A23

Culture of pride not fraud

"FILIPINOS HAVE SOME GENE-plex problems and I have yet to see a case where there is no fraud involved in their immigration application issue" uttered one immigration lawyer attending an immigration law conference.

This is the comment that I heard most from most from among my colleagues during my four-day conference in Orlando, Florida. The question that they asked me is whether or not it is Filipinos culture to engage in fraud. This issue obviously as an insult to our soul. He sincerely to get just mad but

a lot of times because Filipinos are often erroneously typecast.

Raising bars in US immigration policies for the last 15 years, I am no longer surprised by statements mentioning our community. There are more than US immigration practitioners that Filipinos engage in fraudulent schemes and to participate in our culture culture. My response was that the Filipinos are honest, God-fearing people with a sense of pride in their culture. I must to my next statement Filipinos are easily to fallen because we are a trusting people looking up to people it appears authority.

There why there are those fraudulent documents and information in applications for immigrant visas?

Most of the Filipino clients I have seen are educated and know what they want. They are fearful of defeating laws and of enforcement officers in uniforms. However, I would admit that a majority of the Filipinos I have seen are of the financial consequences of using false documents or information to support their applications.

Often, their subjective intent is not even done to criminal. For many of them, their only wish is to be reunited with other family members who are already there.

For others, the objective is merely to get a visa to enter the US and seek employment to provide economic advantages for themselves and their family. For while I understand that there is no excuse for using falsity to justify one's application, I can sympathize with a lot of these people who are Foundation documents are incidental and are given false hopes by unscrupulous individuals during consultations for visa applications.

US Immigration applicants can be classified into the different categories consisting of: Professionals, business persons or families of US citizens and lawful permanent residents (LPR). Each of these categories has its own requirements and procedures.

For beneficiaries of family petitions, many have also realized their own up their careers and hold us-sounding jobs. There is no limit to which a legal resident Filipino can advance in the US family. It is therefore important that the first step in entering the US immigration system be done in the legal way. A Filipino who helps himself advance economically in the US country will also be helping the Philippine economy as an investment for the future of a Filipino who abroad a sure back home to family and relatives here.

It is my intention to give the mainstream US community a different perspective of Filipino immigrants by highlighting accomplishments of prominent immigrants in their respective fields. For those wanting to know a fresh start in migrating to the US, through legal means, I can provide accurate information to pave the way for a successful start for the prospective immigrant emphasizing work, skills and the culture of pride that is embedded in us as Filipinos.

Timothy Lee, partner of the Executive Law Office, a law Practice-based law firm with office in Alabat, Philippines. He may be reached through email at law@interaccess.com. INFO sounds for Immigration information.

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gozon

Nato air strike kills 25 Afghan civilians

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—AT LEAST 25 CIVILIANS, including nine women, three babies and an elderly village mullah, were killed in an air strike early on Friday morning when they were caught in a battle between Taliban and Nato forces in southern Afghanistan, said the police chief of Helmand province.

The scenario is a grimly familiar one: The Taliban launched an attack under the cover of darkness and then retreated into the village of Ganjabah in the Kokchi district of Helmand. Nato commanders ordered air support [illegible] many have lost their lives, the fault for that was entirely the enemy's. "It [illegible] to conduct such attacks in that location at this time, the risk to civilians was probably deliberate. It is this irresponsible action that may have led to casualties."

Afghan anger with the Taliban, whose terrorizing tactics include suicide attacks and concealed roadside bombs. They are upset by what they see as the sometimes indiscriminate death toll of allied bombs and rockets.

That concern has been echoed by [illegible] in the country. Earlier this week, Action—a coalition of Afghan and international relief agencies like Oxfam, Save the Children, and Mercy Corps—criticized the United States and its allies, saying that heavy military action has led to a resurgence of Taliban attacks in 2007.

"This past week has been very tough," said Christopher Alexander, deputy special representative in Afghanistan of the UN secretary-general. "I've seen the reports. In the Uruzgan province, the Taliban literally slit the throats of men, women and children and burned the bodies. But there was also close air support (by Nato) that killed civilians."

Western groups have in fact been keeping meticulously of casualties, there is wide variation in numbers. According to Aljezeerah, during the past two years the number of non-Taliban dead has more [illegible]. So far this year, the United Nations has counted about 2,100 casualties, which is 25% to 30 percent above the pace of 2006. Roughly one quarter of the deaths are civilians, with the vast majority killed by the Taliban, he said.

AFP

FAMILY TIES A one-month-old female Sulawesi crested macaque is held to the cheek of her mother at the Rotterdam zoological garden Diergaarde, south of Tokyo, on June 23. —

Bush promises to permanently bar future illegal immigrants from US

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush promised Saturday to permanently bar future illegal immigrants from the United States as he renewed his push for immigration reform, a key subject of his domestic agenda.

A revised reform package was introduced in the Senate this past week after its predecessor failed on June 7 to garner enough votes to cut off debate and move for final passage.

The collapse of the first proposal has prompted a personal intervention by the president, who went to Capitol Hill to plead for getting the bill a second chance.

But while he has succeeded in pushing the proposal back on the Senate agenda, the legislation is having strong opposition from both Republicans and Democrats, who argue that granting legal status to an estimated 12 million illegal immigrants will only encourage more people to sneak across the poorly guarded border.

In his weekly radio address, Bush sought to address those concerns, according for the first time that under the revised proposal, people crossing a US border illegally will not only be deported, but never allowed to enter the United States again.

"Under the bill, those caught crossing illegally will be permanently barred from returning to the United States on a work or tourist visa," the president noted.

The measure contains $9.4 billion to help the US Border Patrol hire more agents, build additional fencing, purchase infrared cameras and other technologies that help intercept illegal aliens.

"Only after these enforcements come into place will certain other parts of the bill go into effect," Bush said.

Those "other parts" include a guest worker program that illegal immigrants currently in the United States would be able to join by applying for a renewable "Z" visa and meeting fines.

Program participants will be allowed to eventually seek permanent residency and citizenship, although only after returning to their countries of origin.

Bush said that only those passing a background check, holding jobs, maintaining a clean criminal record and capable of mastering English will qualify for a "Z" visa. But he insisted that lawmakers must take action now, before the situation at the southern border gets out of control.

AFP

EU leaders seal reform treaty deal

BRUSSELS—EUROPEAN UNION LEADERS on Saturday worked a bond in sight on the outline of a new reform treaty to streamline the expanded bloc's operations, after striking a compromise with Poland in all-night talks.

At a pandemic press conference, German Chancellor Angela Merkel hailed a "good compromise" over the voting system in the proposed treaty, the issue which had prompted Poland's obstinate to block a deal at the EU summit which began Thursday.

Beaming promptly she looked a little bleak after almost 24 hours' struggle of diplomatic cajoling, bartering and impasse.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair also left his final EU summit having secured valuable concessions on the treaty that he hopes will go a success by British lawmakers, validate the tactics of an unpredictable politician.

Modest and the agreement would give a blue, which has realigned from 15 member states to 27 since 2004, the ability to act effectively.

"We have a detailed and clear mandate for an intergovernmental conference" which will draft the full treaty, she said.

The conference will launch out the full reforms which Merkel hopes will be tied up by the end of the year. The aim is to have the treaty ratified by all states ahead of the next European parliamentary elections in 2009.

The new treaty will replace the Union's failed constitution, which was torpedoed by voters in France and the Netherlands in 2005.

"I can say that, if we had not achieved this today we would have ended up in a rather disastrous situation as many would have thought they had been pushed too far," said Merkel, whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency till the end of the month.

"We have managed to organize things so that no-one can go home and feel they have been put in the corner," she said.

British President Lech Kaczynski thanked Warsaw and Britain for their "solidarity" in helping to broker a deal.

Blair, who leaves office next week, said unruly elected Prime Minister Nicolas Sarkozy both sought to persuade the Polish president and his twin brother, Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski, to drop their opposition.

The Kaczynskis had shocked European diplomats ahead of the summit by revoking their country's most distinctive at the hands of Sir Thaler to World War II in an argument for it to get its way on the voting issue.

Dwelling out the compromise, Merkel said the double majority voting system—which Poland strongly opposed because it feels it will give big countries too much decision-making power—would not be introduced until 2014 and would then be phased in over the next three years.

EU Commission chief Jose Manuel Barroso said the deal was vital.

AFP

WORLD BRIEFS

Space shuttle ends mission with California landing

EDWARDS Air Force Base, California—US space shuttle Atlantis landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California on Friday after a two-day journey through the Earth's atmosphere that capped a two-week mission to the International Space Station. The landing with seven astronauts on board marked three of Atlantis' 43 flights. [illegible] The mission [illegible] The shuttle carried a third pair of antennas whose job will be to relay signals to ground controllers should the two antennas in use fail. The new antennas are part of a $1.7 billion station assembly and equipment needed to prepare for the arrival of [illegible] research laboratory.

Reuters

British girl, aged two, joins high IQ club

LONDON—A 2-year-old girl with an intelligence quotient of "off the charts" has joined the prestigious Mensa club in Britain. The youngest current member of the international society for high-intelligence people, Kayla Tinkler, became eligible for membership after she was examined by a child psychologist who was sent to her "test" at her home in Cornwall, southwest England. [illegible] The results of the tests [illegible] The youngest member was a 3-year-old boy with an IQ of "32" who joined in 2006. Mensa, which is Latin for table, seeks to identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity, according to its website.

AFP

Chirac refuses to testify over dirty tricks scandal

PARIS—Former French president Jacques Chirac has refused to testify over a political dirty tricks scandal, but could face questioning over a party financing affair before he took office, Chirac announced on Friday that he considered himself immune from investigation as a former head of state. Chirac announced on Friday that he considered himself immune from investigation as a former head of state. Chirac announced on Friday that he considered himself immune from investigation as a former head of state.

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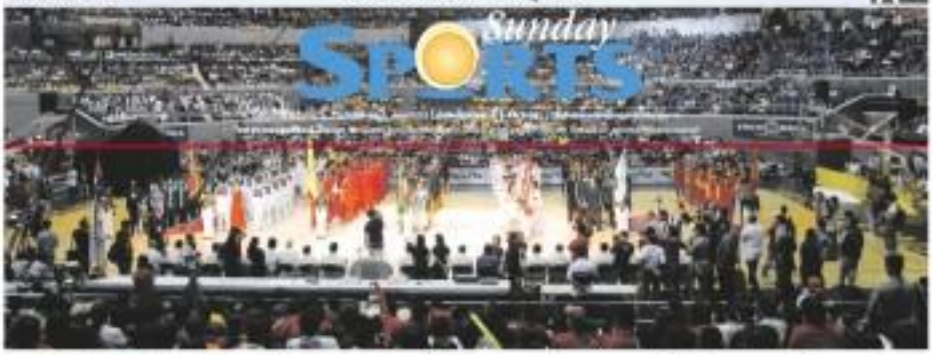

Lions feast on Bombers

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAN BEDA PLAYED TRUE TO hype, unleashing its full might in a 91-69 rout of host Jose Rizal yesterday at the start of the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

Being stocked and Nigerian-laden tipped the Red Lions' brawny set both ends of the court as the defending champions won the game sport-wisely as the first half.

"I don't know what we are made of and they saw what we are capable of doing."

With a slew of rookies in its fold, Letran defeated Mapua, 84-80, in the second game.

The Knights, who are trying to make an impressive title season despite losing three of their stars to the pro league, pulled away in double-digit

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Ex-US NCAA star Norwood hits town looking for relatives

By Marvyn B. Castillo

GABE NORWOOD CLAIMED IN EXCITEMENT with the rest of the Philippine women's roughly 45 days. Well, unlike many first-American players who came to know their roots here, he hasn't seen a relative just yet.

"No, I don't know anyone here," Norwood, a 22-year-old former star of George Mason University in the US NCAA, told reporters Friday night at the Amanda Coliseum. "We can't be actually sure to see and realize that he's my relative."

Norwood is being eyed by coach Chot Reyes for the SEAG team, which will campaign in the 18th stint in Japan next month for a shot at some post's Beijing Olympics.

Only one crucial piece of paper is missing in Norwood's claim to Filipino lineage, the birth certificate of his grandmother.

Though Norwood does not even know the name of his grandmother, her birth certificate, if it can be determined that she was still a Filipino at the time of Norwood's mother's birth, he can get a Philippine passport.

"All I know is that my great grandpa is from Pangasinan," Norwood, a rowdy, 6-5 point guard, whose father Brian was a quarterback for the University of Hawaii, said.

A lawyer adamant the lineage scrambled yesterday said that it is possible for Norwood to secure a Philippine passport. "If that piece of paper is found and proven to be authentic.

"But it would be a case of forum shopping, since especially since the Miss Asia is just more than a month away."

The lawyer, who did not want to be identified, said that if the father or mother of Norwood's mother happens to be Filipino at the time of the expert's mother's birth, "then he can join as a Filipino."

An article posted in March 2006 on the marbelfamily.com website said that the family of Norwood's mother Tiffany migrated to Hawaii from the Philippines.

"They have lived in Maui for five generations, her [Tiffany's] great grandmother migrating to Maui from the Philippines," the article said.

Aces go for 3-0; Bulls, Pals break tie

GAMES TODAY (At Araneta Coliseum)
4:15 p.m. — Red Bull vs. Talk 'N Text
8:30 p.m. — San Miguel Beer vs. Ginebra

TIM CONE HAS HOISTED HIS gaunt for the remainder of his Alaska Aces' semifinal series with San Miguel Beer in the Talk 'N Text PBA Fiesta Cup.

"Our concern is the next one," Cone said Friday night moments after running the Beermen to the ground in a 99-91 win that gave the Aces a commanding 2-0 lead in their best-of-seven duel.

"We need to come out aggressively. We can't afford to have a sleepy-eyed 1st quarter were he cause that's how you win a series.

"It was one of those nights and fortunately for us, we were on top on this given night," Cone added. "But they (Beermen) eyes things around so quickly that they come from a half asleep and win six or seven straight."

No swelling

The Aces take the Araneta Coliseum floor with the Beermen again at 8:30 tonight, just after defending champion Red Bull and Talk 'N Text break their 1-1 tie in the 4:15 p.m. contest.

Alaska, the dynasty of the 1990s, has never made a champ onship playoff since the 2003 Governor's Cup. And Cone was the last man to blow a 3-1 lead in a similar series, losing to Purefoods in the Philippine Cup series last year.

"That's why I refuse to smell it. There will be no smelling from this end," Cone said. "I'll put it on the table already. Other wise, we will continue working."

The 22-point blowout was the worst here Miguel has lost to more than two points. The Beermen were held to just eight points in the first period, 23 at the half and 16 after three quarters.

No excuses

"I have no excuses," losing coach Siot Tanquingcen said. "We need to come out. Our Game 2), and refocus on the things that got us here. We didn't play as a team we both took tonight and that cost us as."

But history does not speak kindly of teams that have gone 0-2 down, with only five of the 20 that fell in such a hole able to rally to survive the series.

And of all the teams that blew that kind of an edge, two of them were Alaska squads under Cone.

Rowell Ellis has been the key for the Aces thus far. He has been able to prevent Cedric Ford from getting going, the way the former UBA all-star MVP did to the Beermen's miraculous quarterfinal conquest of sister team Barangay Ginebra.

And Ellis will score two-quarters-a-game counterpart Bonel Balingit, having played just 22 minutes Friday night as Cone had the luxury of rotating his centers starting anywhere three quarters because of a 30-point lead.

Alex Mallari's hands weren't able to step up the way they are capable of, with only Enrico Villanueva doubling in double figures with 16, 10 of them coming in the fourth when the outcome was already beyond doubt.

Manong G. Castillo

IT'S GOING in for a long choke for Willie Wilson (No.5) and the San Miguel Beermen, while big-talented Alex Cortez and the Alaska Aces by two games in their semifinal battle.

Mendoza favored to keep duathlon title

CLARK—THREE MAY BE LESS women, but a lot of hard work remains in store for elite duathlon racer Rizal Mendoza.

Assured of a slot in the Southeast Asian Games, Mendoza hopes to extend his reign at the 2007 National Duathlon Championship.

The Subic pro cyclist, who bested most racers in the 10K-120-40K bike-10K run event, tries to set a second stitch straight victory in as many tries in today's race inside the Clark Special Economic Zone here in Pampanga.

Twenty-two-year-old Angeni Benidicto and Joseph Billones are expected to challenge Mendoza to boost their SEA Games bid.

The national competition is the final qualifier for the Philippine duathlon team that will compete in the SEA Games in Thailand this December.

In the women's division, the fight remains tight among seasoned racers Pepe Magalona and Ange Lapus, newcomers Monica Torres and Analiza Domingo, a retired Triathlon daughter City.

"After the race, we will make the final decision on the team and start a rigorous training program for them," said Triathlon Association of the Philippines president Eric Gervacio Jr. "We expect podium finishes in both divisions (male and female) in the SEA Games."

Mendoza, the 2006 Asian Duathlon champion, remains among the region's best after finishing second in the 4km-run-40km-bike-and-fourth in the 10km-run duel-mile-elite categories of the 2007 Mekong River Duathlon Series Championships in Thailand last March.

Benidicto and Torres raised the finish 23 minutes of the same tournament.

Today's standard distance race will also feature age group competitions, a 5K run-20K bike-2.5K run, sprint for juniors and centenarians and a Superbikers' duathlon.

"Aside from the number of the national training team and other elite duathletes, are expect a lot of weekend and recreational athletes to join," said Gervacio.

Jasmine B. Rupe

Forest Hills, Alabang lead FedLeague golf

Standings (Pro-Am Format)
Group A: 1. Alabang 3-0-0, Highlands 2-1-0, Municipal 1-2-0, Valley 0-3-0, Southwoods 0-3-0
Group B: Sherwood Hills 2-1-0, Alabang 2-1-0, Mont Blanc 1-2-0, Canlubang 1-2-0, Puhr Bay 1-2-0, Orchard 0-3-0
Group C: Forest Hills 4-0-0, Heritage 3-1-0, Manila 0-3-0, Mt. View 0-3-0

FOREST HILLS and Alabang remained the only unbeaten teams in the field after hacking out contrasting victories in the Federation Golf League team match played today at Mt. View Golf & Country Club.

After taking a much-needed rest last weekend, Forest Hills, which is bidding to become the first team to win three titles in the league, survived the challenge of Southwoods, 3.5-1.5, to complete a four-game sweep of its first round eliminations assignment in Group III.

Alabang, champions in 2006, picked up only No. 3 in Group I as Investpower is shedding defending champion Manila Southwoods, 5-1 frontrunners, struggling due to the inroads of several key players in figuring had lost its first two outings.

Sherwood rode the momentum of its big upset win over Northwoods last week to demolish a hapless Orchard squad, 5-1, and enter the quarterfinal in Group II.

Midway 3-0 thumping of Mt. View means an extra point and allowed it to stay within sight of Forest Hills.

Forest has eight points while Heritage is a point behind with seven.

It was only the third elimination outing this season after Forest swept Mt. View in Round 1 and Northwoods blanked Alabang in Round 2.

The Wagon Boosters joined the leaders in the semis after they notched a second straight victory in three games by edging the Laguna Tigers, 3-0.

Lawson Simmons, recently the country's best pitcher, is expected to deliver the goods for the Boosters, who are out to nail the No. 2 seeding and avoid an early confrontation with the powerhouse Ilolpinas.

Mabasa, for its part, will be joining its hopes on the youthful Jo-ri Sevilla, a University of Santo Tomas standout and hot-shot IAAP MVP in the making.

Bulldog fattened out six batters to a three-inning relief effort that powered the Mariners to their first win, a 7-4 decision over the Manila three weeks ago.

The knockout format would look at subsidized next week with the championship game slated on July 1.

STANDINGS

	W	L
Cebu	4	0
Negros	3	1
Manila	2	2
Makati	1	3
Laguna	0	4

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Stadium)
9 a.m. — Manila vs. Negros
10:30 a.m. — Laguna vs. Makati

CELEBRATION
Members of Team Lipa, headed by skipper Manny Mendoza, whoop it up after topping the team competition of the Partwin Cup Invitational Badminton tournament held at the Nasipit Badminton Center recently. The other team members are Alan Ang, Albert Acuna, Michael Cocolboda, Lawrence Lee, Renzo Villanueva, Kristine Malgat, Jocelyn Bantilo, Pia Millado, Francis Bolito. Event organizer Christina Cotiamban (left) joined in the celebration.

'Road king' runners list gets bigger

REGISTRATION FOR THE METRO MANILA adidas King of the Road fever has already surpassed the 2,500 mark with still three days to go before hitting a thousand more.

The July 1 race will start and end at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Diliman.

The race will also be simultaneously held on July 22 in the Visayas in the cities of Cebu, Iloilo and Tacloban; in Mindanao in Cagayan de Oro, Davao and Zamboanga; in Luzon in Subic, San Fernando, La Union, and Puerto Princesa.

Over 2,000 entries have registered in almost all the provincial venues, with Cebu City expected to post the biggest number of entries as it requested for additional 1,000 singlets to be made available to schools confirming their participation.

Registration for the Metro Manila is P250 while entry fee in the provinces is P350.

A total of P196,000 in adidas gift certificates and P181,000 cash awaits top finishers and lucky raffle winners.

Adidas sports marketing manager Grady Carmelo Moreno announced that all participants in next Sunday's KOTR are entitled to a 20% discount at adidas outlets at SM Megamall and Trinoma Mall at North Edsa.

The top three finishers in the 10K finishers in the 21K cross-square events of the three events competition in the Metro Manila adidas KOTR will receive P10,000 cash and P10,000 worth of adidas gift certificates and a trophy.

The top finishers of the five age group competitions in the 21K and 10K will receive P5,000 worth of adidas gift certificates and a medal while the top finishers of the age group competition in the 5K run will take home P3,500 worth of adidas gift certificates and a medal. There are no overall awards for the 10K and 5K run.

Three teams battle for last two BP semis slots

THREE TEAMS FIGHT IT OUT TODAY for the two remaining semifinal berths of Baseball Philippines' elite series on the last playdate of the eliminations at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium.

Manila, tied with Makati for third with 3-2 cards, opens up against semifinalist Negros in the 9 a.m. opener, looking for a win and a shot in the semi round of this event presented by Powerade Tri thirdqa.

But Manila will be on the 1 p.m. encounter between Makati and Laguna, with the latter needing a victory to have a tie for the fourth and last semi berth.

A three-way tie for third means if Manila drops its game to Negros and Laguna upsets Makati.

The Cebu Dolphins cruised to the final Four and took the No. 1 seeding via a four-game sweep of the elimination round capped by a 12-6 rout of the Manila Sharks last week.

The Negros Boosters joined the dolphins in the semis after they notched a second straight victory in three games by edging the Laguna Tigers, 3-0.

Lawson Simmons, recently the country's best pitcher, is expected to deliver the goods for the Boosters, who are out to nail the No. 2 seeding and avoid an early confrontation with the powerhouse Ilolpinas.

Mabasa, for its part, will be joining its hopes on the youthful Jo-ri Sevilla, a University of Santo Tomas standout and hot-shot IAAP MVP in the making.

Bulldog fattened out six batters to a three-inning relief effort that powered the Mariners to their first win, a 7-4 decision over the Manila three weeks ago.

The knockout format would look at subsidized next week with the championship game slated on July 1.

STANDINGS

	W	L
Cebu	4	0
Negros	3	1
Manila	2	2
Makati	1	3
Laguna	0	4

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Stadium)
9 a.m. — Manila vs. Negros
10:30 a.m. — Laguna vs. Makati

Gymnast Ramirez targets Olympics

By Dennis U. Eros
Inquirer Libre Sports Editor

RUEL RAMIREZ, THE COUNTRY'S TOP male gymnast, is on a mission.

A double-gold medalist in the 2005 Manila Southeast Asian Games, the 24-year-old Ramirez is aiming for a prestigious slot in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Norman Hickson was the last SP gymnast to compete in the quadrennial Games during the 1968 Mexico Olympics.

Since then, no Filipino has made it to the Olympics due to a variety of reasons, including lack of funds and exposure.

To qualify, Ramirez must battle the tough 68th Artistic World Gymnastics Championships set Sept. 1 in Stuttgart, Germany.

"It's going to be hard, but I'm 100 percent determined to make it," said Ramirez, physical education major at the University of the East.

In an exclusive interview, national coach Arsenio Ty and Ramirez lost the trade to gain a slot in Beijing.

"I feel that Ruel a ripe for the Olympics because he has the experience and skills to make it," said Ty, who will accompany Ramirez to Stuttgart.

Ty said Ramirez made it to the Olympics without going through qualifying.

"From the 1972 Olympics to the present, the international federation decided that competing gymnasts in the Olympics must undergo qualifying due to the uncontrolled number of participants," Ty explained. "Before, anybody with the skills and money can compete."

Ty said Ramirez is gearing for a spot in the all-around individual event.

Four-team scramble for V-L title slots

IT IS A WIDE-OPEN RACE FOR the two championship slots with only two playing days left in the semifinals of the Shakey's V-League women's volleyball tournament at The Arena in San Juan City.

Leaders Ipcoum plays University of Santo Tomas today at 4 p.m., the first of the Lady Tigers' last two games which they must win to secure the first championship slot with a 9-2 card.

UST, the league's inaugural champion in 2004, also has two chances to at least qualify for the 1-of-4 scheme being used by the tournament.

If they lose today the Tigresses must beat the defending champion Ga Safe Lady Archers on Tuesday to have a shot at a second crown.

Under tournament rules, a team that wins three out of its four seven assignments is assured of a playoff for the second finals berth.

La Salle, also just one game away from the semis incentive, meets arch rival Ateneo de Manila in the other game at 4 p.m.

Ateneo is out of the running after dropping all its three previous seven matches.

A close 6-5 map exists between Lyceum and alle San Sebastian College (7-2) if the Lady Pirates win today and the Lady Gaga's beat them on Tuesday.

Ipcoum, UST (6-2) and DLSU (5-3) are tied for 4-5. If the Tigresses sweep their last two matches and the La dy Stags beat the Lady Pirates on Tuesday.

In break a tie, the new international volleyball federation (FIVB) rule will be employed.

In that, the quotient of the total scores won over total scores lost.

The other finals slot will be disputed by either the No. 2 and No. 3 squads or by the No. 2 team and the winner of the other playoff, which may pit the Lady Archers and the Tigresses in case they meet the 2-of-3 scheme.

The finals will be a best-of-three affair which will start July 3.

Bombo E. Ascoña

STANDINGS	W	L
Lyceum	7	2
UST	7	3
DLSU	5	3
EAC	4	4
Ateneo	3	7

GAMES TODAY
(The Arena)
(4 p.m.—EAC vs Lyceum
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle)

KANCHAMA (above) will lead the La Salle charge against Ateneo.

GVL: Prenza High puts St. Joseph bid in peril

PRENZA HIGH SCHOOL (30) BEAT St. Joseph's College Quezon City 25-20, 15-10, 30-24, to sweep all its six Bracket B matches and ensure a quarterfinal berth in the 3rd season Shakey's Girls Volleyball League yesterday at the Mones Blue Eagle Gym.

Jennifer Reyes, Lorena Simon, Mabell Bautista and Margaret Bendijo combined for 63 points, including 21 kills, to lift the Manila-based school.

St. Joseph's and Greenhills Spikers dispute the other quarterfinal slot today.

Prenza coach Al Zaspio was elated with his team's performance despite dropping the opening set.

"Nagpanic kasi sa [When we lost the] first set, sabi ko sa mga bata (I told the girls to) just focus, that it's a learning experience. Oh's a good thing we came through," Zaspio said.

Prenza plans Hope Christian School in the crossover quarterfinal round starting June 30.

"Makaka-ang-ilupa pero makapa-nanin maglupig ay maganding labas! Hope is a strong name [so] we will give them a good fight," he added.

The other quarterfinalists are defending champion University of the East, Brixmor Hills, University of Santo Tomas and St. Francis.

The year's champion team will fly to Bacolod for the Tournament of Champions slated July. Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

SPORTSWATCH

Coach E School enrollees reach 2,000 mark

THE COACH E BASKETBALL SCHOOL HAS BROKEN THE 2,000 MARK FOR ITS enrollees in the three years since August 2004 it opened. Coach E Basketball Academy (CBA) president Jesse Kneng said that in this year alone, the school founded by PBA chairperson coach Eric Altamirano has more than doubled the number of enrollees in all its venues with another set of enrollees coming up in July to September. Interested parties may call 631-1180 or (0917) 540 2626 during office hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays to Fridays or log on to the...

Ateneo-La Salle golf duel set June 29

ATENEO AND LA SALLE BREAK TRADITIONAL PAIRINGS TO DUEL IN THE ANNUAL UAAP golf tournament at the Classic Course then move to the Canlubang Golf and Country Club. The Green Archers and the Blue Eagles split the first two editions after a new format was used two years ago. To save the...

Firebird new PCAP derby leader

THE DIABLO HOTEL-SPORTSMANSHOUSE DRIVEBOY, JOEL FERNANDEZ and Paul Dominguez grabbed the overall leadership in the Philippine Racing Association of the Philippines Cooker of the four race last Monday at Makati Commercial. Using the tandem-and-tandem Double Isotherapy and Multi-Powered brands of Dominguez, the Firebird Double III entry vaulted into first spot with a total of 33.3 points after piling up two consecutive wins in the last two derbies of the PCAP Cooker of the First Conference with a score of five. Dominguez, the...

Religion stakes bonus prizes

BONUS PRIZES AWAIT PBR DONATE IN THE UPCOMING "MCDONALD'S Big value" 8-cock derby slated on July 2, 3, 7, 9 and 11 at Religion Mega Cockpit. Red Ruby cocks and the featherweight champion and second place during the eliminations rounds on July 2, 3 and 7 will receive P40,000 and P15,000, respectively. The champion and second place of Pinoy 300 awards the number one champion on July 11. If any champion's picks of P800,000 award participants who can score four straight wins on July 9. The derby has a guaranteed prize of P3.5 million and derby fee of P6,000. For reservation of cocks' boxers, please call: 891-2371, 800-1800 and 892-8812.

RACING Tips

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Jet Set)—Sound Of Silence (3), Magic Treasure (4), Serenity (7), Nyssa (8).

Race 2—(Jet Set)—Royal Warrior (1), Carrie Bradley (2), Copper Head (3), Will be Mine (6).

Race 3—(Tri)—Intervention (4), Pride And Joy (5), Quirks (7).

Race 4—(Super M Grill)—Lucky Dragon Rocket (4), Mighty Mike (5), Lord And Master (6), Kevin (7), Triple Reggie (8), Bloodline (9), Animal (10), Wildfire (11).

Race 5—(Super M Grill)—Wendy Magic (1), Shannon (2), Formidable (3), Rocket Ship (4), Intervention (5).

Race 6—(Pacific Grill)—Special Delivery (1), Intervention (2), Chimichanga (3), Mighty Mike (4), Sound Alert (6).

Race 7—(Jet Set)—Dance (2), Seasonal Bride (3), Ice Beauty Jet (5), Golden Dollar (8).

Race 8—(Jet Set)—Ice Answer (1), Crystal City (4), Step On The Gas (6), Dragon Empress (8).

Race 9—(Pacific Grill)—Expressway (2), Afternoon Delight (Hidalgo) (4), Magic (5), Legendary (6), Lovely Jet (8).

Race 10—(Super M Grill)—Dang (4), Smashing Success (5), Magic (7), Lingle (8), Whoggit (2), Seeing Red (6), Advantageous (3).

Race 11—(Tri)—Blue Shield (2), Indomitable Spirit (3), Sweetie Pie (4), Miss Behave (5).

Race 12—(Pacific Grill)—Sunkist (1), Shield Line (5), Bang Bird (6), Beautiful Jessie (8), Dolce By Love (2).

Race 13—(Super M Grill)—Special Edition (1), Lumpiak (2), Special (3), Run Fraser (5), Excalibur (7), Eleventhhour (8), Mighty Mike (4).

TRIPLE CROWN

Ibarra outstanding 2nd leg choice

CARMONA, CAVITE — "IT WOULD BE BETTER none if Ibarra loses."

Gaining from the owner of one of the contenders in the field, the management of the most hideous the general feeling that Ibarra will add the second jewel today to what is rumored to be Philippine racing's Triple Crown sweep this year.

The three-year-old son of Swaziland son of Sin Down Under again sizes out in the outstanding choice in a seven-horse field that sees action in the JV Guggis Cup, the second leg of this year's TC series, at the San Lazaro Park here.

"Frankly speaking, the biggest story in this race is if Ibarra loses," Ronnie Zigarraga, owner of reputed second girls Golden Sunset, told the Inquirer yesterday when asked what he thought of his entry's chances.

Silver Story

Silver Story was the last local Triple Crown champion in 2003 and next since Run Dancer in the late 1990s has any horse showed this much potential to dominate a Triple Crown field.

"That's the weight on our shoulder right now, the pressure is on," said Ibrahim Madia, Ibarra's owner, in a separate telephone interview. "The horse is still very young and we are looking for victory."

Ibn dawn's not answering Ibarra's huge pressure after he ran closer the field in the first leg a month ago when he prevailed by almost 10 lengths over a rallying Golden Sunset.

Golden Sunset, the prevailing progeny of noted American stallion Mr. Sotish, came charging back from an far back as eighth place in the 1/2 furlong field to salvage second place in the first leg.

He will now be sent off as the logical second choice because of the distance of the race, which favors stayers like him.

Undefeated

Antonio Abaniel, a veteran of many Triple Crown races, rides Ibarra as their partnership tries to stay undefeated in six starts, while see Jonathan Hernandez steers Golden Sunset.

The race is set for 1,700 meters with first place worth P1.8 million out of the P5 million pot put up by the sponsoring Philippine Racing Commission.

Post time is around 5:25 p.m.

Tiramisu1 Ark, a speedball to be handled by John Cordero, for Twenty Six, which will be ridden by Dominador Borbe, Jhet Kaye Javier, as he piloted by Louie Balden, Lord Ross, who will be mixed in by RC Fernandez, and Amazing Through, who will be partnered by Bert Hilario, round out the field.

There have only been eight horses ever to complete TC sweeps in local horseracing's long history, and some of those names, like Run Dancer, Time Master and Run And Bypass, seem on to enter to be all-time greats.

Lucena up

Ibarra was stroked out for 1,200 meters on Friday, with the colt doing 25", 25", 25" under little pressure from Abaniel.

Yesterday morning, he was tested for two miles (3,000 meters) in Antero up for the long grind today, the distance of the race after all, not common in the local scene.

"I'm not sure if pure the horse, are only for this leg but the end," Madia added.

The third leg is scheduled next month over the back-breaking 2,000-meter distance.

Meanwhile, a dispelled Stolen featuring Jr champion fed by ejaculated Miraculous Delight is also on top for the 1½-mile marathon.

Dilcinio Ildoc Miramonte Delight, who will be coupled with Middleeyeray as the art out as the eligible picks in the P600,000 race spiraled over the mile at around 6:30 p.m.

Lovely Jhel, with Jessie Jose aboard, Jay mulary Dalbosa), Kinglen (Jordet) and Jasper amorito (Adriano) are the other probables.

— Manuel S. Carullo

THE GOLF Directors Association of the Philippines (GDAP) owners in appointment of Palm Golf Hotel Inc. (PGH) as owner manager for its annual Philippine International Golf Show slated October 19 to 28at Megamall. Signing the agreement are (seated, from left) Golf Show chair and GDAP secretary Ana Hermes, GDAP president Gerald Raymundo, and PHI vice president and chief operating officer Elaine Garcia-Santrabarbara.

Nicklaus golf tourney tees off Monday

THE LOCAL QUALIFYING ROUND OF THE Jack Nicklaus International invitational golf tournament tees off tomorrow at the Tagaytay Highlands Golf and Country Club.

Dubbed the Tournament of Champions, the scramble-format tournament will select the best pair who will represent the Philippines in the 2008 dated Sept. 16 at The Bear's Club, in Jupiter, Florida.

Tournament participants qualify through a purchase of Jack Nicklaus apparel or accessories at any Rustan's Department Store. Qualified registrants will be notified through registered mail or phone call.

Apart from a championship trophy and the honor of representing the Philippines in the second JNI in Florida, the winning tandem will be given round-trip plane tickets plus four days-and-three nights' hotel accommodations with full meals at The Bear's Club Hotel and Honors Spa.

Second placers enjoy round-trip plane tickets to Hong Kong courtesy of Cathay Pacific, and the third place winners will get a three days-and-two nights' stay for a country club at El Nido (Resort in Palawan with full meals and roundtrip plane tickets.

Jack Nicklaus, the 17-time winner of golf's major events, is also the international brand of stylish, high-performance sports and leisure wear.

Antonio bags NCA crown

AFTER 14 NATIONAL DERBIES AND TWO INternational notables staged by the National Cockers Association (NCA) at Sucat City Cockpit, Bertok Antonio and Sons Antonio emerged as the 2007 NCA Cocker of the Year winners recently.

Antonio's Superpower 2000 Inc.-managed SSF entry has tallied 51 points, edging out second runners-up Nep. Ajap Inc.-reps and Arnold Mendoza (Red Creek I, Rd. Fire Fly 13 cocks) (491) and Gen Ice Dante Bibiano-reps Sundance, 46.5).

Considered as the leading cockers organization in the Philippines, the NCA has 55 prominent members.

Antonio's winning streak continued in the recently concluded IUC International Derby, where he partnered with Ice Sunbird of Collenido (IN All Supreme Winning Line) and hosting champ Mainky Dumpios (Super Pacific Grandstand) in posting a double.

One of 30 fights, Antonio, Sunbird and Pecquiros inched 14 wins against two losses, a remarkable feat in an international derby.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday SPORTS
SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2007

RODRIGUEZ outshines Bonds.

A-Rod, Yankees overshadow Bonds' No. 749

SAN FRANCISCO—BARRY BONDS' 749th home run wasn't exactly enough to overcome another big night from Alex Rodriguez.

Rodriguez went 4-for-4 with two RBIs and the New York Yankees beat the Giants, 7-3, Friday night in their first meaningful game in San Francisco since winning Game 7 of the 1962 World Series.

Bonds put the longball, but A-Rod got the win in the matchup between two of baseball's most feared sluggers.

"92 mile two more (Bonds homers) and two more wins," Rodriguez said. "I'll trade that. I'll a huge Barry fan. I have to say great career he displayed. It's a beautiful thing to watch. As long as we win the game, he can do whatever he wants."

The talk before the game was of the two sluggers' Bonds as he closes in on Hank Aaron's career record of 755 home runs and Rodriguez, the player many consider the biggest threat to build his record after Bonds.

Bonds connected for his 750th home run of the season in the eighth inning off Jason Frasor, cutting New York's lead to 6-3. But the Giants couldn't get any closer, dropping their season-high eighth in a row in the game.

"I don't think we're thinking that much about Barry trying to watch this milestone as trying to win a ballgame," manager Bruce Bochy said. "That's not front right now. We need to stop this and we know it."

Rodriguez helped the Yankees bounce back after they were swept in a three-game series in Colorado. He also his seated a three-run second inning and he also hit RBI singles in the fifth and sixth innings.

For Ignoto, making his first start after seven weeks in the minors, was sharp early but was removed one out away from a potential win after walking Bonds with the bases loaded to cut New York's lead to 5-3 in the fifth inning. Luis Vizcaino (3-3) went in and Ronnie Mulina hit a drive to left field that Hideki Matsui caught as he jumped into the fence, robbing the Giants of an extra base hit.

"That ball had topspin on it," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "I thought when he first hit it he hit it out of the ballpark. Obviously that was a game-saver for us there."

The Game-tied threesome after Bonds' homer, pushing two runners on in the eighth before Mariano Rivera escaped the jam by getting pinch-hitter Ryan Klesko to ground out. Rivera got Dan Ortmeier for his ninth save in 11 chances.

After being held to five runs in Colorado, the Yankees scored three times in the second against Matt Cain (3-6) with help from an overeager his down the right field line.

Cain allowed five runs and seven hits in five innings and dropped to 0-5 in his last seven starts. Cain walked four and hit two batters for the first time in 33 career starts. AP

Wimbledon tough for ladies

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—THERE'S no easy route to the women's Wimbledon final.

Top-seeded Justine Henin, seeking her first Wimbledon title to complete a career Grand Slam, could face two-time champion Serena Williams in the quarterfinals.

Three-time winner Venus Williams could face 2004 champion Maria Sharapova in the fourth round...and defending champion Amelie Mauresmo in the semifinals.

There's also the chance of another all-Williams final, with the sisters wind up on different halves of the draw.

But with Venus Williams seeded No. 23 and Serena Williams at No. 7, it will be hard road to set up a repeat of the 2002 and 2003 finals.

"I'm feeling a great deal more belief in myself on grass," said Henin, coming off her third straight French Open title on clay. "I must still learn to trust myself more on this surface."

Friday's draw was kinder to Roger Federer, who is seeking to become the 31st player to win five straight men's championships since Bjorn Borg secured the feat from 1976 to 1980.

Federer's main chore is his section of the top half those are Marat Safin, whom he would face in the third round, James Blake and Dmitry Tursunov. Federer could meet third-seeded Andy Roddick in the semifinals. Federer beat the Americans in the 2004 and 2005 finals.

HENIN

SHARAPOVA

MAURESMO

WILLIAMS

Big punchers cross paths

LAS VEGAS—JUST LAST FOUR FIGHTS TO name one assigning from the opening bell, Jesse Luis Castillo-Antonio no other map to fight than to move between knockdowns.

The new all-out styles would ordinarily promise one great bout, and there's little doubt that the two fighters at their best would put on just that kind of bout.

But there are questions both Chavez and Castillo will have to answer when they meet Saturday night in an intriguing light welterweight bout.

Has a brutal fight with the late Diego Corrales and the wear and tear of a long career finally caught up with Castillo? How (scary) and powerful is Chavez after more than he's let on?

Is Chavez really the "Mr. Mac," or just a one-hit wonder who packaged a win over Kenya Enyeziwo millions?

Both fighters are coming off of less than impressive performances, giving the questions added legitimacy that both promise they will be in top form when they tangle in a 12-round fight at the University of Nevada Las Vegas campus. AP

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

At 10, she did odd jobs like shining shoes and selling popsicles in a cemetery. Now, she owns and manages the entertainment sites in Greenhills. How did she do it?

Precy's secret

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

TRAVELING TO EUROPE IN THE '70s WITH only a daily budget of $5 was not surprising. But going there with your rich friends and maintaining them to do the same was something else.

But I had what Precy Florentino, owner of the Music Museum, The Promenade in Greenhills and the Greenhills Theaters, did. She was then 28 years old and the dollar was then worth P6.61.

Precy took the trip with her best friend, Edith Manotoc, and Edith's sister, Perla, who belong to the wealthy Aboitiz clan of Lasam del Norte. Together, the three ladies toured London, Paris, Madrid and other European cities for four months and had the time of their lives.

Precy's flair is not really surprising for a woman who started to have managerial achievements and find the time of their lives.

Precy's flair is not really surprising for a woman who started to have managerial achievements and find the time of their lives.

"My exposure to the corporate world and a family-owned business with good corporate values was because of the Aboitiz's group," she says.

Precy comes from a modest family background. Her parents ran a grocery store who required their children to mind the grocery every summer.

She fondly recalls her father telling her some "Of all my kids precocious the one who will not go hungry."

The father could not have been more apt. At the age of 30, Precy was already working manning warehouses relieving neighbors' shortcomings.

FIRST JOB

THE PROMENADE is a favorite weekending hub of young and old alike.

Doing something

"I always wanted to do something," she says.

And she saved a lot. After graduating from elementary she bought a camera worth P500—a huge amount in the 60s. It was not just for pictorials, though. In high school, she dabbled in photography and made money.

She studied and finished business administration at the then Maryknoll College (now

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AT BOTTLENECKS, a fast-moving bottling plant has fewer per cap.

DIFFERENT vending machines that served Coke products through the years

THE COCA-COLA Co. chairman and CEO Neville Isdell (left), president and COO Muhtar Kent, (right), Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue and Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin pop open a larger-than-life bottle of Coca-Cola to formally open the World of Coca-Cola.

Coke adds new tourist attraction to Atlanta

A 1936 'FELLOW' Coca-Cola delivery truck from Argentina

'TASTE IT!' offers visitors the opportunity to sample 14 different Coke flavors from around the world—from Australia's Lift Lemon to Uganda's Fanta Exotic Fruit Punch.

A NEW TOURIST ATTRACTION HAS JUST been added to the cityscape of Atlanta, the capital of Georgia made famous by the CNN Center, the Centennial Olympic Park and the Georgia Aquarium, the world's biggest.

The Coca-Cola Co., the world's biggest beverage company, recently opened a new World of Coca-Cola, which houses exhibits that draw upon the firm's rich history.

Most chairs seize the size of its predecessor, the new World of Coca-Cola at Pemberton Place [named after Coke founder John Pemberton] aims to become another major tourist draw in Georgia's capital. It sits beside the Georgia Aquarium, whose land was also donated by Coke.

INTERNATIONAL journalists join via Pres. Ellen Arora, others Coke artifacts on exhibition.

It's a walk through Coke's history since its invention in 1886.

Admission to the World of Coca-Cola is $15 for adults and $10 for children. Tickets give visitors specific times to enter. Though more expensive than the original museum rate, Coke officials say matters will get inside being for their funds, including a complimentary 8-ounce bottle of Coke from Inside Works.

A 4-ounce tall replica of the company's famous contour bottle, lighted at night, hangs above the entrance floor. It's suspended in a 23-meter glass cylinder.

An Coca-Cola film welcomes visitors to the room, showing a view of what goes on inside a Coke vending machine. After the film, the screen rises and visitors walk out into the museum.

At Bottle Works, 9-ounce bottles are produced and made available to each visitor before leaving through the gift shop. At 3am to people also get to taste Coke products sold around the world.

Precy's secret

From page B1

Michael] in 1968. It was during her college years that she and her friends formed the Friday Club.

After graduation, she worked at the Maryknoll regional's office which enabled her to interact with teachers and students. She was also a sports events organizer and got involved in team building activities.

Bigger role

The job experience apparently prepared her for a bigger role—that of building and managing her own business while working as an employee at the same time.

Her first true entrepreneurship was accidental though. The Friday Club had then watched the first solo concert of Rob Ledesma. After the show, the group was introduced to Rob.

The singer, who somehow thought Precy was a lawyer, asked her help in buying a property. Precy obliged and they soon became friends.

When Rob went into producing concerts, she asked Precy to help. She agreed and helped the singer produce iconic musical concerts of the 80s that included "Ako ay Pilipino," "Inspired Kuwentos" series and "Ang Pinoy nga Kantao."

As for "sidelining" gone a member of the Aluminum clan offered her a job as secretary in one of the family-owned companies. He was Ernesto L. Aluminum, who was then trade undersecretary in the Cory Aquino administration. Precy accepted and got her job at Maryknoll.

She didn't stay long as secretary. She was soon promoted head of the women group, in charge of exports. Her last post there was vice president for marketing.

She says she learned a lot about doing business from her own job. "I wouldn't know what I now know without the recollecting in the Aluminum days."

In 1995, Bob Ledesma set up Music and Magic. By 1999 she wanted to locate in the US and asked Precy's could for theatre. Those were no takers so Bob asked her to just give a down payment and pay the balance when she's got the money. She took the offer.

A big fire razed the theatre two years later, but Precy was unfazed. She rebuilt and managed it and hung on to it even when business slowed down. Before the lease expired in 2000, she asked the Oregon group, owners of the property to lease it over to her.

Business acumen

She renovated it by putting two cinemas and a shopping mall. Her friend, Edith, lent her some of the money she needed. The renovation cost P78 million, but that did not stop her from expanding and investing the Peninsula at a cost of P600 million more. This time, though, banks were ready to lend her the money. It was a witness to her business acumen.

Recently, the duo renovated the old Ilaya a Lot building along Claro Recto Avenue to condominiums and commercial area called Allegro.

Keys to success

She did all these while working as an employee in the Aluminum-owned companies. And how she managed to be on top of a major construction project while handling corporate responsibilities is a talent and skill only a few have. The twin takes a 10-cent hand in the architecture and physical looks of the structures she builds.

Today, her Multi Materials Group Inc. has 79 employees and more than 200 contractuals.

Asked what the keys to her success are, she answers once and again to the Aluminum who have supported her entrepreneurial ventures while working for them.

The other factor she cites is knowing and using the art of "other people's time." She delegates most of the tasks that need to be done, but takes a close look at the operations.

FLORENTINO with Europe

THE FRIDAY Club

FLORENTINO with her classmates from Maryknoll

"I always wanted to do something," Precy says

Precy visited from the Aluminum-owned company in 2005, after working there for 22 years. At 60 and still single, she says she wants to focus on her own business and enjoy life more.

She now spends her weekends with her family in Bulacan planting mahjong. Most Fridays, she goes out with her college friends who belong to the Friday Club.

Crossroads

Precy finds herself at a crossroads. While some people who had retired would usually decide to take things easy, there is still a passion inside her to accept new challenges. One may come her way. She is being offered to undertake a major project.

Her favorite reading itself now is Rhonda Byrne's "The Secret" and says she has realized she has been doing the secret unconsciously in her book.

The secret: "Everything that's coming to your life you are attracting into your life. And they're attracted to you by virtue of the images you're holding in your mind. They're what you're thinking. Whenever is going on in your mind you are attracting to you."

A good way to describe how Precy pursued her interests: Broadening views and simply going for them.

Yet more malls cometh

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHEN IT COMES TO SHOPPING, FILIPINOS have few equals.

Filipinos love to mindlessly load much pavilion, with malls of all shapes, sizes and concepts operating in all urban centers and spreading out to the provinces.

And the pace of construction is showing no signs of slowing down with at least two malls rising every year, and that is just from the big players in the retail industry such as the SM, Robinsons and Ayala groups.

There are the other construction firms that are jumping on the retail bandwagon and putting up their own establishments to take advantage of the retail business.

Growth fuel

Fueling the growth is the sustained growth in the amount of remittances sent to the Philippines by Filipinos working overseas.

There are not only more Filipinos going abroad, they are sending more money to the tune of over $12 billion a year from over eight million overseas workers.

Add to that the growing population, which now stands at over 86 million people, and there is room for further expansion.

The SM group, by far the largest on the field of mall operators, is not about to stop putting up more malls.

Last year, the SM group opened five malls, including the 400,000-square-meter Mall of Asia, which is designed to be the premiere destination mall in the Asia-Pacific region.

Other malls opened last year include SM City San Pedro, SM City Clark and SM City Lipa, all in key cities outside of Metro Manila, as well as the SM Supermarket in Pasig and the upscale The Block in the city center.

As of last year, SM Prime Holdings, which owns and operates the SM hypermalls, has 27 malls with a gross floor area of 3.6 million square meters.

Expansion mode

For this year, SM vice president Millie Dizon said SM continues to be in an expansion mode.

Opened in February this year was the SM City Bacoor, a 58,000-square-meter mall in the Tirona-Aguinaldo region.

"Considering of two buildings linked together by a scenic bridge, it has been packing crowds since its opening date because of its design and tenant mix," Dizon said.

Also scheduled to open within the year are the SM City Taytay, also outside the Philippine capital and SM Supermarket Masinloc, a suburb of Metro Manila.

SM will also expand its existing malls: An additional 100,000 square meters will be added to SM City in Cebu and 10,000 and 33,000 square meters, respectively to SM City Pampanga and SM City Bicutan.

"All these malls and expansions, including the Esplanade Seaside Strip in the Mall of Asia area, will bring an additional 270,000 square meters," Dizon said.

"By the end of 2007, SM will have a total of 30 supermalls with a total floor area of 3.9 million square meters," she added.

Out of comfort zone

The Ayala group has also gone out of its comfort zone covering the Makati Central Business District, the premiere financial district in the Philippines, to open its first mall in Quezon City called the Triangle Heart of Manila in Trinoma.

The project runs the gamut of the Ayala Metro Pacific land bank 200,000 square meters of leasable space and opened its doors to the public in May.

Trinoma has been described as a super regional mall, which will bring in the best of retail and entertainment in the Ayala malls to the Quezon City market, which has a large middle-class base.

The Trinoma comes on the heels of other concepts, such as the retail pavilion of the Ayala group's low-rise real estate development in the Fort Bonifacio Global City with 6,000 square meters of retail space.

Then there's the bigger retail area of the Bonifacio Global City mall with 14,000 square meters, which will be anchored by a 40-meters wide and 400-meters long serving as the park for events, fairs and other activities.

Exciting development

Another exciting development in the pipeline is Greenbelt 5, which was developed in response to the market's clamor for more space for high-end establishments and more restaurants.

To make it different from the other retail outlets, Greenbelt 5 will be dedicated to world-class Filipino artists, be it in food or in products.

The completion of Greenbelt 5, the first phase in October this year and the second phase in the first quarter of 2008, will complete the redevelopment of the Greenbelt area.

Completing the list of the Ayala group's major mall development projects in the redevelopment of the Ayala Center in Cebu, the major urban center outside Metro Manila.

Setting sights

Robinsons Land Corp. has 16 shopping malls—six each in metro Manila and 12 malls in other urban areas—with a combined 1.26 million square meters of gross floor area, an expansion of 65,600 square meters with the expansions of Robinsons Place Lipa in Batangas and Robinsons Place Dumaguete, Cebu, both south of Metro Manila.

Revenues from the commercial centers division grew 4 percent from P3.102 billion to P3.221 billion despite the renovation work in several existing malls. This was attributed to a healthy occupancy rate of 93.5 percent and increase in rent.

Robinsons, thus, has its sights set on putting up even more this year, according to RLC president Frederick D. Go.

Go told shareholders during the last meeting that the Robinsons group was excited about the prospects of the property industry.

"We will continue to build new malls and expand our highly successful establishments under the commercial center division to maintain our position as one of the three largest mall operators in the country," he said.

Over the next two years, Robinsons is scheduled to open up malls in Tuguegarao and Dumaguete, both near Metro Manila, Imagassin in the Visayas and Davao in Mindanao, which indicate that much of the retail growth will come from outside the saturated capital of Metro Manila.

Getting on the bandwagon

Real estate developer Ortigas & Co. is also getting on the retail bandwagon, banking on the success of its flea market concept in the Greenhills Shopping Center.

Ortigas & Co. chief operating officer Roy C. Dillon II said in an interview that the group was looking to replicate its formula to more retail areas effectively, particularly in the retail components of its growing roster of housing projects.

He also said that there were opportunities galore for the group to take over the operation of existing retail centers that have not fully taken off the ground.

"We cannot fight investors of scale, but there might be opportunities to turn around retail centers to good locations," Dillon said.

He said there was indeed room for growth in the retail sector as saturation is nowhere.

He said the shopping center has grown by 10 percent year on year, and he expects the growth to continue this year.

AYALA: Locations, with Greenbelt as its hub of retail center

ROBINSONS: Indicates there's room for more malls

The phase of mall construction is showing no signs of slowing down

THE SM Group will see accumulation results

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Quest for imperfection

From page B1

key decisions until every last piece of information has been gathered and scrutinized.

But those paralyzed by perfectionism, prospective researchers seeking truth for uncertainty, Dennison will always be accompanied by a degree of the unknown, and, as such, it is vitally important for a leader to be comfortable taking action.

Perfection is a destination no one will ever reach. Excellence is a journey open to all. Strive to do your best, and rejoice in the reality of imperfection.

To peruse the full text of Penelope Trunk's article "Breaking the Perfection Habit," visit Yahoo Finance! online: http://finance.yahoo.com/expert/article/ceo-watch/30391.

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshop, please e-mail us at this: getsmart@email.com or call 813 8668 [7:12 and 6:8] for Ding Tel MAXWELL OH to 4632 (maxy) or get daily IMS leadership insights from John Maxwell.)

Sunday BIZ

Quest for imperfection

WE ARE IMPERFECT PEOPLE leading imperfect lives in an imperfect world.

We are evidence of this imperfection every day in the mirror. Whether it's a receding hairline, wrinkles on our face, or the five pounds we've wanted to lose.

We are reminded of this imperfection periodically on the roadways: We get a flat tire, our car breaks down, or we are run over.

We are taught this imperfection occasionally by nature: A tsunami wrecks a village, a tornado touts apart a town, or a hurricane decimates a city.

Even though we experience imperfection and accept it all around us, we still fall victim to our own perfectionist streaks from time to time.

In her column for Inland Finance, Penelope Trunk spoke the dangers of perfectionism and advises readers to break the perfection habit.

Hypercritical attitude

Perfectionists suffer from an almost neurotic adherence to abnormally high standards. They agonize over the simplest of details, and they are intolerant with the slightest of errors.

Even worse, perfectionists may impose their exacting standards on others.

For persons reporting to a perfectionist, the inability to match their manager's lofty expectations can be insanely frustrating, leaving their work will be judged as too slow or too sloppy (no matter much effort they put in!), workers may be tempted to quit trying.

Paralysis by analysis

Perfectionists may freeze up in the face of a project because they refuse to start until they see a picture of attaining perfection. Endlessly deliberating, they neglect action. By overthinking, they lob themselves of initiative, and they may begin procrastinating.

Fear of failure

Perfectionists have an irrational fear of failing.

Instead of taking healthy risks, perfectionists focus all of their energy on maintaining a veneer of flawless performance. They are apt to squander time minimizing or hiding imperfections rather than capitalizing on their strengths.

Attaining imperfection

Discord between control and nonconformists.

A typo on the front page headline of the New York Times—no special. A typo on the agenda of an internal team meeting—monumental.

For those with the perfectionist bent, a healthy balance comes by recognizing which tasks require topnotch excellence and which tasks simply need to be completed adequately.

Cut some slack

Mistakes are a natural part of life. Try as hard as we'd like, we still fall from time to time. Practice doesn't make perfect. Practice gives us an outlet for mistakes, and mistakes teach us how to do better.

Embrace uncertainty

Perfectionists are prone to do-

QUIZ: H

Actual shot of Mayfield Park Residences

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Cleofe Bansil-Fontanos

The gospel of Silvia

Four expat women make things a little easier for other expats by putting together what they call a black book of secrets that you can slip into your handbag

LATIN QUARTET Mayte Marquez Tuchangco, Lizaia Ester Zobel, Soledad Bosses Gonzalez and Silvia Dorales, authors of the guide to living in RP for expats, pose with their husbands at the book launch.

By Pam Pastor

THE EXPAT LIFE IS NOT AN EASY ONE.

No one knows this more than Lizaia Ester Zobel, Mayte Meiland Tuchangco, Silvia Dorales and Soledad Bosses Gonzalez... women who come from different countries and have made the Philippines their home.

Lizaia, originally from Colombia and married to Ayala Corporation chair and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel, has been in the country for 30 years. Mayte, who is half-Spanish and half-Norwegian, moved to the Philippines with her parents and ended up marrying a Filipino. She has lived here for 30 years. Soledad Bosses Gonzalez, who is Spanish, resided in the Philippines for three years with her family until they recently moved to Brazil. Silvia Dorales, from Ecuador, has been in the country for two years.

They are all part of the Latina group of super women who regularly host a...

Says Soledad, who has lived in a number of different countries, "You move from one place to another and nobody gives you information. No one shares their secrets."

The support of other expat women is very important. Mayte says: "The first day I met Soledad, I overheard her in the Philippines and I brought her a little paper with maybe 10 names of doctors and a few other things. I said this is for you. Because these are the things they were asking to me."

It is no different from what other women who are part of the Latina group do. They call one another up asking for tips—where to get flowers, which doctor to call, which caterer to use, among other things.

And while the practice of calling up one another for tips has worked for years, the women have found a better way to help expatriates efficiently.

THE REST: 13

PLDT Smart Foundation launch of Artists in Development with chairman Manny Pangilinan and Anthony Pangilinan and the generation artists

SOFITEL Chefs on Parade: Carlos Carballo, Pressit pastry chef Herve Le Clanche and executive chef Chris Wardenburg

Sweating out to find my inner balance

YOGA masters Hiwa Aranda and Cherry Ok

SISTERS in yoga mentor Martina and Liana Romulo

VINYASA class of hip-yogi Robert Borlo

YOGA Manila founders Boris Pellicano and Liana Romulo

PANDAMIGOO as Ben dancers Tyrone Valdez and Bimi Monfort

BALANCING LIFE'S many facets is a continuous challenge. And achieving equilibrium is easier when we engage in regular exercise, proper diet and some form of meditation, whether prayer or deep breathing.

That's why I practice Bikram yoga. This exclusive exercise, done in a heated room, gets practitioners all drenched in sweat after the 90-minute moving class. It's a great way to detoxify.

My sis Bryan, newly arrived from his college graduation, went to Tristan Check's Bikram Manila studio in 88 Corporate Center in Salcedo Village. Makati (www.bikramyogamanila.com) and was hooked. As somebody, he is not yet too agile, yet he is determined to get more fit by the time he joins the workforce.

For a more intimate setup, check out Bikram Studio, owned by Pye Trinidad (09173346659). The energy here is more feminine (read: less manly!) but with the same intensity.

For a more focused meditation in yoga, there is the original Ashtanga. My aruba buddies Lourdes Bautista and Tuga Martin (www.yogamanila.com), then returning the drain group that my co-teacher, Sheba Lipat, left behind. Together with my other yogi-mates, they have opened classes in Ortigas, Makati and Alabang, including classes for kids, personal mentors and gentle yoga.

Lianne, a model-turned-dynamic beauty and beauty, has added another feather in her cap with her new project, Yoga Asia Magazine. Published by Spa Asia, there are informative stories about the benefits of yoga and balancing a yoga body and a Buddha mind.

For a very limited time, ultra-cool Robert Borlo is conducting Hip Hayaw classes at Yoga Manila. If there were a soothing ambient in yoga, Nirvana would top it. The sounds of Chicago, Carl del Mar and Frank Duvall are in the background while Robert leads the class with his soothing voice and suave manner.

Spa world

After all that bending and splitting, aching nerves and muscles need a relaxing break. Thai's ruby yoga and spas go together.

Spas are everywhere, from the tiny but complete Urban Spa (www.urbanspaphilippines) to Shang Mall to the newly opened, top-of-the-line Chi Spa in Fort Bonifacio. Spa Asia will surely find an even larger oasis of tranquility right in the heart of our bustling city. Inaugurated last week with no less than Pete Bercelonia, Shangri-la's resident at Boracay, Chi Spa has its own private entrance separate from the busy hotel. The soothing aura in Chi provides instant relaxation.

The Philippines is fast becoming a preferred spa destination. We really should be encouraging our country's many assets, such as our native massage treatment, Hilot.

All that exercise works up an appetite. Luckily, one of the things we do well is eat. There is no buffet like a hotel buffet and the new kid on the block, Spirals at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza (tel. 551-5555), is a buffet par excellence.

French food fest

Wonderful: a French Spring in Manila, hotel and Alliance Française sequestered a four-day culinary festival that culminates today with a Sunday Dinner Party at the Sofitel. On the four prime culinary regions of France—Bretagne, Provence, Franche-Comte and Languedoc.

Still part of French Spring in Manila, Alliance Française also brought in Compagnie Kilt, an amazing French aerial acrobatics performance at the CCP Matching the motorcycle, solo circus act of Eric Levassor was like viewing a graceful Spiderman suspended on elevated boards. It was a balancing show with a display of pretzel-sized and body control.

I practice Bikram yoga in a heated room. It detoxifies and makes you lose sweat and weight. It also makes you hungry

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Celebrities for charities

Speaking of balance, it is a wonderful practice to always set aside something for charity. The rewards are reaped tenfold, as lives are transformed by the charities we support.

The PLDT Smart Foundation has started Artist in Development (AID), a program consisting of a network of scientists that will support the Foundation's projects, especially those in community development and poverty alleviation. AID believes that having famous faces participate in its projects will provide the motivation for many others to volunteer and help out as well.

In the same way that famous international artists like Oprah Winfrey and Angelina Jolie started the trend of being personally involved in socially responsible acts, I eagerly joined the PLDT Smart Foundation's AID program, together with several other talented showbiz artists. We hope that our combined talents for raising funds and creating awareness will translate into successful AID projects.

Business leaders like PLDT CEO Manny Pangilinan have taken this innovative path in "giving back." Like MVP, we, too, balance our lives better through little acts of charity.

Camp-bound

When I think about balance, I always think about my kids. They are, after all, the reason I'm in of our lives, and our balance is their balance. Each of our kids goes through different stages of life and most recently, my 13-year-old, Tyrone, leaves for a month-long summer camp as part of the Children's International Summer Village. Its many parents and children who are participating in this program will be saying their summer good-byes as well.

The kids have all been training in Philippine folk dances and other skills so they can properly represent our country in their foreign co-campers. It's an exciting time, but also a stressful one as these young ones go off on their path to maturity. So I'm going to relax with a good Bikram session and a strenuous massage after.

New president

BMW Philippines recently hosted an exclusive dinner to introduce its affable new president, Andreas Bichler, to the media.

Andreas comes to the Philippines from his most recent posting in Germany where he was in charge of the sales region Berlin and Brandenburg.

But he is no stranger to Asia. Since joining BMW in 1997, Andreas lived in Korea for five years and has been assigned to various roles in China and Japan.

Mr. Bichler is joined in the Philippines by his wife Ming Kyung and their 5-year-old son, Julius.

E-mail the author at snapshots@inquirer.com.ph

SOFITEL family-feel Carlos Carballo, Yasmine Hidalgo and Melanie Pallarina and Singapore Superfood model Janine Cuenca

TALENTED designer Hiroshi Lulu Tan-Gan, DJ Hahn, Tonichi Maceda and Barry Kalighat

MONA royal couple William Hamilton Whyte and friendly wife Angelique Reyes

SOPHISTES Rose Libongco

BRITISH Ambassador Peter Beckingham and lovely wife Jill

ALLIANCE Francaise's Olivier Dimitzger and aerial acrobat Eric Lacombe

INQUIRER President Sandy Prieto-Romualdez with Tatler editor Anton Del Chiaro

HONG Kyung Bohner, Andreas Bichler and Cosara Parreño

CHIV Italian delegation leader Sandrino Borgno with Bimi Monfort, Stefi del Rosario, Martin Lee and Tyrone Valdes

LEMON Parreño, Nikki Bancos, Jane Mari Ugarte and Dian Bernice

The gospel of Silvia

From page C1

The book

It started with a cake—rich, moist, chocolate cake.

Silvia was having lunch with the Latina group when she exclaimed over the cake that Lizzie served, "Wow, Lizzie has time to bake cakes!"

So, Silvia was told, Lizzie didn't bake the cake.

"You can get it from Vale down the street. It's heaven. It's nice, it's homemade. You don't have to do everything," said Marit, who was also at the lunch.

"You know, Marit, if I knew all those things, my life in the Philippines would have been much easier," said Silvia.

And that was how the idea for the book dawned on Silvia Lizzie, Marit and Soledad. They decided they would put together a little guide for the Latina group.

The plan seemed simple enough—the other women would feed Silvia the information, and she would compile everything. They dug through their phone books and started making recommendations.

"We kept feeding her and feeding her and the little pamphlet became bigger and bigger," Marit said.

Soon, it became quite obvious to them that what their little pamphlet could turn in to a big book. They spent a year and a half working on the guide.

Marit says the most challenging part is making sure all the information is accurate. "We had to keep verifying all the numbers. There were times when didn't have a landline, who changed their numbers all the time. Filipinos are very mobile, extremely mobile. They keep moving around. So we said, if they're not there anymore, don't kill us because when we called them the last time, they were there."

There were other women who contributed in one way or another to make their book a reality. Marketing manager Hanna Goh helped get sponsors. Pam Ilig and Camille Marie Javier edited the book. Chichi Recabo (illustrator) and Jacinto Dan Pipo of 'Lizzie' sweater avenue) on the book's graphic design. And Amanda Lynn Morris took the photographs for the different sections.

When the time came for them to choose a name for the book, they already had the answer—"Silvia's Book."

"Silvia didn't want it to be called 'Silvia's Book' but from the beginning, when we would work on it, we called it 'Silvia's Book,'" says Soledad.

And the name is just fitting. "Silvia's our friend but she's the symbol of all of us," Marit says. "We were all Silvia at one point."

Mixture of secrets

Today's 'Silvias' can turn for help to "Silvia's Book," which Soledad likes to think is "a mixture of secrets."

Marit says, "It's a black book of secrets that you can slip into your handbag. It's a solution book."

But this solution book has advantages over your regular yellow pages.

"The yellow pages may have everything, but everything here is something we have tried ourselves. If I didn't try it, Lizzie tried it. If Lizzie didn't try it, some of our friends tried it," shares Marit.

The book may be out in the market now but the group has no plans of stopping.

"We will keep updating it. We'll do another edition maybe in two years. We'll also put up a website where we can answer questions and get feedback. The hard work is over, we just have to keep updating," says Marit.

Although she claims they had to edit down the book because they had over 200 pages at the height of compiling it, "Silvia's Book" remains very thorough.

The book does not just provide phone numbers and addresses. There are a lot of tips as well—chapters devoted to getting stitched, education, leisure, travel, shopping, even household help.

"Some people would have problems because they've never had maids living with them before. That's a main topic for us," notes Marit.

The chapter on health is also very important...she stresses.

"No expats come here from other countries and they have health concerns about the vaccines. You don't need all that unless you're going to live on a pig farm."

Pinay prevaricators are also discussed. Things like color coding ("It's very interesting because it has nothing to do with the color of the car."), symbolic signals, even street names that keep changing. We can't considered too trivial. Opening a bank account and getting a driver's license are covered.

"You have to know these things and those are things you only find out when you've lived here for a while," Marit said. But the book is an easy of making things easier.

The women wrote in the introduction, "For all the Silvias out there, we hope this book becomes your friend."

All proceeds of the book will go to the Holy Family Home Foundation Makati, a home for abandoned and neglected girls at risk run by Sisters Capuchin Sisters.

The book is also the women experts' way of paying tribute to Manila...a city they have come to love.

"What makes Manila pretty is the people. They are warm. They are curious about you," Marit says.

Adds Soledad, who will have left Manila by the time this interview comes out: "I'm gonna miss a lot of things."

"Silvia's Book" is available at Fully Booked.

SOLEDAD Rocco Gonzalez and Marit Melland Yu-Hongco

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Guballa

Breast milk is always best

BREASTFEEDING HAS BEEN AT THE WINE-bum of the nurse this week.

Mustard by the doctrine of breastfeeding nurses in the country, the Department of Health harmonized strong policies last year to curb the unethical marketing of breast milk substitutes. The Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (RIRR) of Executive Order No. 51, otherwise known as the "Milk Code," now imposes heavier fines for violations of the code.

Baby milk companies, through the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP), opposed the new regulations, as expected. Both sides met last June 19 at the Supreme Court to present their oral arguments. They have been given 20 more days to present their replies.

The breastfeeding culture in the country is slowly dying. At present, 33 percent of infants nationwide have never been breastfed, and the Philippines has the lowest "ever breastfed" rate among 30 countries that conducted Demographic Health Surveys in the last 10 years.

Half of newborns in the country stop breastfeeding exclusively by the time they are 2.6 days old, as opposed to recommendations by the World Health Organization and Unicef that infants should breastfeed their babies exclusively for six months. Worse, families spend P21.5 billion yearly to buy infant formula.

Any mother who has breastfed her child knows the pure joy that comes from the experience and the benefits that both mother and child can gain from it.

'Formula for Disaster'

The BCH says milk companies are subverting and flagrantly violating every existing code now by peddling their influence on health professionals and through multibillion peso marketing and advertising campaigns that work to hijack consumers.

To emphasize and support this reality, Unicef created a documentary entitled "Formula for Disaster" to open our eyes to the deception and hopefully put an end to it. I previewed the film last night and came away with the hope that a peaceful solution can be achieved by all parties concerned.

Clearly and without a doubt, breast milk is STILL the best option for babies. Every month or week her cub should arrive to breastfeed her child, at the very least, he can double, and ideally up to 2 years old. There are a multitude of resources available through hospitals, the Internet, support groups, and other organizations that help encourage and aid every mother to breastfeed her child.

I think the problem lies in the information available for mothers, most especially in the grassroots and lower income levels. More money first from abuse? I ask myself! should also help be put in to establish lactation centers, to educate nurses, midwives and health workers on the benefits of breastfeeding, provide incentives for breastfeeding mothers in the home environment, and create programs to educate them on the many benefits of breastfeeding.

There also needs to be a reorientation in the corporate world. Many working mothers opt to stop breastfeeding because it is too much of a hassle. Stay companies, too, need to be more sensitive to the plight of breastfeeding moms. How many corporations are able to provide a space for breastfeeding mothers to safely and peacefully produce milk or breastfeed babies at work?

How many malls provide safe and clean breastfeeding areas for their mother-shoppers? Can't really share are breastfeeding areas only in certain SM Malls, but we understand that Ayala's plans to set up its own breastfeeding lounges soon.

Advocacy

In the Philippines, there are people such as Dr. Elvira Navarro-Esparza and Nona Aurora Castillo who are very passionate about raising the country's consciousness on the benefits of breastfeeding. As part of their advocacy they've set up centers for breastfeeding (Tel: 14446578, 3891385) to provide support for parents and breastfeeding mothers.

Esparza and Castillo are International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLC), two of only five in the country. The clinic is "a safe haven for latter and weary child bearing, inducing reestablishing breastfeeding [relactation] and sustaining breastfeeding beyond two years.

The clinic also provides actual support for breastfeeding initiation in the hospital, as well as specialized counseling for pregnancy and breastfeeding mothers. Fathers or to parenting partner are trained on how to do these measures. Lastly, the clinic offers assistance during actual childbirth delivery until the first breastfeeding.

The two women have also established the Philippine Lactation Resource and Training Center in Manila, where breast counseling support is readily available. Esparza, a diving adviser by profession, has also helped set up the Philippine Academy of Lactation Consultants Inc., a multi-specialty group within the Philippine Medical Association that advocates the benefits of breastfeeding. The organization has recently made breastfeeding a part of Continuing Medical Education.

The country needs more programs such as these. Perhaps, the "warning" lectures presently have On but mission of the child is mind, a peaceful solution to the problems can be achieved.

Breast milk will always be best and that is a scientific fact. Any mother who has breastfed her child knows the pure joy that comes from the experience and the benefits that both mother and child can gain from it.

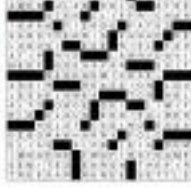
E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com

Why mother's milk is special

- HUMAN MILK IS DESIGNED FOR babies. Human milk is species-specific. The milk of each mammal species has adapted to supply its offspring with what is needed for optimal growth and survival.
- Human milk has anti-infective properties. Breastfeeding mothers often notice that their children are sick less often than children who aren't breastfed.
- Human milk contains essential fatty acids. The essential fatty acids in human milk optimize cognitive function and vision. Studies have found that premature infants who received human milk via feeding tube were more advanced developmentally at 18 months and at 7.4 years of age than those of comparable gestational age and birth weight who had received formula as babies. The hormones, the antibacterial and antiviral cells, and essential fatty acids are just some of the reasons human milk is the vastly superior infant food. It is a truly unique substance that cannot be copied artificially.

From the La Leche League International website www.lalecheleague.org

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



STYLE Weddings

Pretty as a picture Caroline Dizon and young, southern gent Mark Gorriceta, a lawyer, pledge to be together forever in elegant rites at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Tagaytay

GORRICETA-DIZON NUPTIALS

A romantic highland wedding

By Maurice Arnaiz

IT WAS A CLEAR, CRISP COOL day for the chic wedding done close to the heavens, pulong-gpit.

Pretty-pretty as a picture Caroline Dizon and young, dashing southern gent Mark Gorriceta, a lawyer, pledged to be together forever as they were united in the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony at the Our Lady of Lourdes Church in the most romantic of all places, the highlands of Tagaytay-Calabarzon.

The bride, Carey, is the daughter of businessman Reginald and Lourdesita (nee Demundig) Dizon from Batangas. The groom, Mark, is the son of the late well-respected lawyer of Pasay, Felix Gorriceta, Jr., and the ever charismatic Dr. Amelita Bautista Gomez from Iloilo.

For the beautiful couple's wedding, to-dos was left untouched (what is on Bangus, pulong-gpit). The exercise and talented southerner Robert Bluestaller of UHA did a fantastic job with the floral arrangements for the church, the entourage, and the Japanese Midland Veranda at Tagaytay Highlands, which was the venue for the grand and elegant dinner reception.

The bride wore a super chic Ran Lizard wedding gown that had a gorgeous tailored detail train that went from here to eternity, pulongpit. The designer also took charge of the gowns of the ladies in the entourage.

The groom and groomsmen were suits in-

A ROMANTIC D2

Engagement ring unlike any other

THE ULTIMATE sparkling proposal would only mean popping the question with the most dramatic ring—Brazilian Fire from the world's most perfect-cut diamond.

It features a ring of eight hearts when seen from below and a symmetrical fireball when viewed from above.

• There are four C's to know when choosing a ring. Cut (weight, shape and proportions); Color (weight); Color (the whiter, the more valuable); and Clarity (fewer inclusions or flaws).

• Studies found that almost 80 percent of women preferred platinum, like the setting of Heart's on Fire.

• In buying an engagement ring, know her ring size. Ask family members or close friends.

• Know and consider her tastes and preferences. Look at her choices in clothes and jewelry, as well as her styles/types.

Hearts-on Fire diamonds are exclusively available at Vanell at The Podium, Ortigas Ctr.; Shangri-La Mall, SAM Terminal 1, SM North Edsa's The Block, and SM Mall of Asia.

HEARTS on Fire diamonds

GROOM'S immediate family

JP Olcino, Lovelight Olcino, Curry and Mark, and Mel Olcino

A romantic highland wedding

MARC'S Kiltab High School gang

GODFATHER Alfonso Nieuwlhuys

MOTHER of the groom and Socrates Nava's grandfather Socrates S. Soriano

DR. MELVIN LEABRA, with Celia Ledesma and Martin Soriano (above) Ruby and Edwin Cruz.

ILOILO representative of 3rd District Arthur Defensor

DR. VIVIAN Sorolla and Pototo, Iloilo Mayor Jerry Treñas and wife Nicole

TOURISM Exec. Salvador Sorolla, Jr.

ILOILO City Mayor Jerry Treñas and his wife Nicole

THE NEWLYWEDS with principal sponsors

CARRY and Mark Margin Nuevas, Senator C. Flavier, Mari Pamela, and lawyer Jun Jarabese. The flower girls, Nadine Banning, Isabel Espinosa and Bernice Gerbasio

Milestones

We welcome announcements of wedding and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, mothers of parents, date and place of wedding, and your daytime phone number along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, PO Box 2363 Makati Central Post Office 1260 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the readers.

NGO-ARU

Jefferson Lee Ngo, son of Juanito Ngo Hiong and Lucia Gaut Ong, will wed Anna Elaine Gonong Abu, daughter of Marciano and Minda Abu, on July 29 at Polo Victoria, Intramuros, Manila. The bridal gown was designed by Emily S. Aguilera.

DAGLO-NAGARRO

Engineer Patrick Nicholas P. David, son of engineer Rene and Tarlitz David, will wed Christine T. Navarro, daughter of Catherine T. Navarro, on July 7 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Intramuros, Manila. Reception will follow at Villa Intramuros Hall. The bridal gown was made by Edward Tyng.

LAZARO-CARWIN

Ruben Lazaro, son of Gabriel and Agnesita Lazaro, will wed Mary Claire Gaspino, daughter of William and Josephine Capuian, on June 30, 10 a.m., at San Rafael Parish Church. Reception will follow at Landmark Function in Dasmariñas, Bulacan.

CRUZ-LACUMPTE

Edwin A. Cruz, son of Amelito Cruzerond and Elizeria Cruz, will tie the knot with Gretchen Jo Compte, daughter of Cmdr. Jr. and Lilian Jo Compte, on July 21 at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, Bonifacio Drive, Pasay City. Reception will follow at The Gate in Alta, Bulacan and Balesin Pasay Gen Rosario, The Peninsula Manila.

LEE-CUETO

David S. Lee, son of Yung Lee Kenneth and Hadrei Lee of San Francisco, Calif., and Irene C. Cuento, daughter of Edgardo and Rita Bernas Cuento of Carcar, Cebu, at the St. Catherine Parish Church, Carcar, Cebu. The reception was held at Theo's de Barra.

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Husband's old GF wants 'closure'

DEAR EMILY,

I would like to appeal to that Muslim woman who recently revealed harm to my life. She was an ex-girlfriend of my husband during his stay in Iraq in the mid-1990s.

She was the first woman to whom my husband gave his PMA ring. When she decided to marry someone else, as my husband was not yet prepared to settle down at the time, she returned the mini ring.

But she appears to have severed her ties with her husband when she lived abroad. She came home early this year. She contacted my nieces through the Friendster web page, asking for his e-mail address or contact numbers.

Then she contacted my husband via the same web page. Though she was told by my husband that she was just a cherished memory of the past with no place in his present or future, she persisted in keeping in touch with him.

As she belongs to the circle called "harder girls" of PMAers during her time, she somehow managed to locate my husband and has been calling him up, asking to meet, etc.

She said she just wanted to ask if my husband received the mini ring she returned 20 long years ago and she wanted closure and a formal breakup with him.

My husband and I had several fights about this already. Although he said he never met her, I, however, discovered that her number was saved in my husband's cellular phone as "Tom D." She changed her number after I found out that she and my husband had been sending text messages to each other, and again contacted him.

To my husband's credit, the killing statements for his cell phone do not show that he has contacted her, though that is inconclusive evidence.

My husband has always been loving and caring toward me and our children. He encourages me to pursue my career and has opted to be de-commissioned from military service to earn more for the family.

Other than the usual spats and differences in tastes and opinions that characterize married life, I have no complaints about him.

Mind to say I thought of writing you hoping you could help us out by publishing my letter. I just want this woman to know that there is room for the Tagalog saying "pag puno na ang banga'pic, tumatapon na ng sarili."

As a Muslim woman, she should not do things that could be perceived as immoral and immoral.

Certainly running after a married Christian man cannot be described as modest.

HAUTE!!!

I can understand your anguish at the intrusion of your husband's former girlfriend into your lives. However, despite your request, I cannot, in conscience, publish her name.

If you want things to happen in your marriage, it is your husband that you should focus on. No amount of admonition will succeed, if he is insecure or is not confident in his resolve to resist that temptation.

But he obviously is enjoying reliving his PMA days and this old flame is gladly orchestrating it all.

Since he, as you mentioned, has not stopped being a loving and caring father and husband, appeal then to his sense of family and ask him to stop this cell phone flirtation before all hell breaks loose.

Point out to him that there are none so blind as those who refuse to see! That might jolt him out of his reverie and wake him up to the real danger of losing his family!

While you're at it, refrain from going the Television route. Don't nag, don't be troublesome. Maintain your dignity and composure and allow him to see clearly what he has now and what he turned his back on years ago.

What may have been wonderful memories he really yucky now. Just be the better woman. That won't be lost on your husband.

Email the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph. Submit Lifestyle or send your letters to Inquirer Letter to Mr. Marcelo can be sent to "Kalihiman" Inquirer, 7/F 40 Rada St., Makati City, or call 897.8708, 897.8708.

DR. FELISA Z. Bautista (center), who marks her 91st birthday on June 27, poses with Dr. Lolo Tino, Belinda Chancoco, Sonia Alcaraz and Charing Villar

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Barcay

'Tuloy' restores the dignity of a child

FOURTEEN YEARS AGO, FR. BOOBY Evangelista took 32 boys off the streets and gave them a home in the Don Bosco town located in Makati.

The boys were given the chance of a lifetime—to get an education and know about Jesus Christ.

Fr. Booby was able to construct a 3.5-storey building with a dormitory, study area, dining room and kitchen. The priest calls the "Tuloy sa Don Bosco" program with volunteers and the kindness of donors like the Leonardo Foundation, Philippine Rotary Club and individual donors.

In 2005, the children moved to the 4.3-hectare Invesbilidum Village in Mabalang, Montalinjan leased from the Department of Social Welfare and Development. They study using a Department of Education-approved curriculum.

Today, Tuloy has 201 residents and 397 non-residents.

Fr. Booby said he focused on restoring dignity to the children. The priest said the children suffered trauma and needed love and caring.

The school needs P1 million a month for expenses, including water and electricity and salaries.

This school year, Tuloy's needs include: twenty one in three (equivalent to elementary in the formal system), 16th students aged 9-16, lovely lace to live (equivalent to high school), five students aged 9-16, secondary technology courses for ages 17-22: automotive, 62 students; refrigeration, 34; baking, 33; and CompTech, 35. There are also 162 on the job trainees.

The complete list of volunteer "home parents" Carlos Go is a senior officer of the bank of Philippine Islands and Metro Sun Asia was vice president and country representative of Bank of New York in the Philippines. Carlos co-founded Tuloy with Fr. Booby, while Blanco is the head of the marketing and program development department.

Tuloy Foundation, Inc.'s board of trustees consists of 12 Filipinos, one American, one Spanish and one British.

Fr. Booby, a Salesian priest, was ordained in 1978 by Pope Paul VI in St. Peter's Square. An author with 15% shares from all earnings (he does what St. John Bosco tried to do for street children during his time. With Fr. Booby still looking for stockholders, the place needs help.

Because, prayer and the kindness of heart.

Tuloy Foundation, Inc. is located at the school building, skills training workshops, central cafeteria and sports/recreation center.

A LEVEL. If student learns how to use a computer from a student in Computer Tech/Data Encoding at "Tuloy sa Don Bosco" school

Tita Helen's birthday

The Philippine Women's University will mark the 93rd birthday of its board chair Dr. Helena Z. Benitez on June 27. A Thanksgiving Mass will be held at 11 a.m. at the Our Lady of Miraculous Medal chapel at the Manila Taft campus. Rotarian's chaplain Msgr. Fernando Cerrard will officiate, with Fr. Antonio Lassiter as co-celebrant.

The PWU community thanks the Lord that Tita Helen is still healthy and has a sharp memory. The ELE Hall, a museum and art gallery, will be renamed after her.

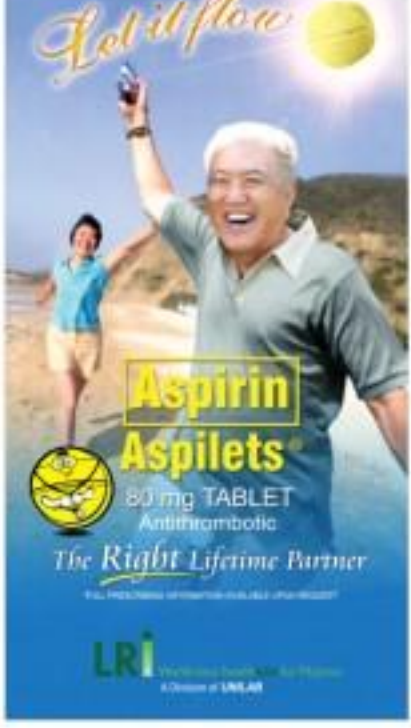
Talking fondly about her multi-awarded family, Perry Benitez-Johnson told me Tita Helen was always focused on what she was doing, especially providing education through PWU. Perry is now back after 26 years abroad. She is the executive director and secretary of the Ayala Museum.

Tomorrow, the PWU Doctor of Education Alumni Chapter led by Dr. Lolo Tino will have a pre-birthday celebration for Tita Helen at 3 p.m. at the Orlando Benitez Hall. Speakers will talk on Tita Helen's various achievements in the women's issues, diplomatic organizations, home economics, legislation and education. The PWU School of Music led by Rose Harold Galang will have a presentation.

Help needed

Sr. Pilar Serrano of Pro-Life Philippines is appealing for help. She said, "Our volunteer counselors are busy all day answering calls from girls and women in distress due to pregnancy they did not expect or due to sexual abuse. Lately, we have been getting calls from battered wives. But the greatest number of calls are from teens asking questions on love relationships and premarital sex."

To raise funds, Pro-Life is presenting the Repertory Philippines' musical "Cinderella" at 8 p.m., Aug. 18, at the Stages Makati. Proceeds will help open more counseling centers. Donations to Pro-Life are tax deductible. Call 9522931 for tickets. To donate, text Betsy Pilar at 09205935494.



Bits of Wits from Dr. Angel Lara

Have you recently had your blood pressure checked? If you have a family history of hypertension or lead a highly stressful lifestyle, it is important that you have your blood pressure checked. Just because you feel healthy does not mean that your blood pressure is normal. High blood pressure, in fact in most cases, has no symptoms. Even children may have it but it is more common among people from age 35 and above. If you have recently discovered a high reading of your blood pressure, it is a warning that you must regularly watch your blood pressures. Let's look at the meaning behind the numbers in the blood pressure reading.

JNC 7th Blood pressure classification levels

Blood Pressure Category	Systolic (mm Hg)	Diastolic (mm Hg)
Normal	Less than 120	Less than 80
Prehypertension	120–139	80–89
High		
Stage 1	140–159	90–99
Stage 2	160 or higher	100 or higher

When your blood pressure reading is normal, make sure to have it checked at least every two years. If your reading falls under prehypertension, your doctor will tell you if you are at high risk of having high blood pressure based on your family history or your lifestyle habits. He may also require you to have your blood pressure checked more regularly. If your reading constantly falls under high, it may mean that you have to adhere to lifestyle changes such as exercising regularly, quitting smoking and drinking, managing stress, maintaining proper diet and losing excess weight. This is required because of the numerous risks it poses such as coronary heart disease and stroke. When it is present with other conditions such as diabetes, the risk of events such as stroke, heart attack, kidney and heart failure are even higher.

Antihypertensive agents are available in different kinds. Unless there are contraindications, hypertensive patients are also prescribed aspirin together with their current antihypertensive medications. **Aspilets**, the aspirin considered as the **the right lifetime partner** of hypertensives and diabetic patients, provides maximum benefits because it prevents the blood from clotting or thickening and blocking the blood vessels. When an artery is blocked, the blood flow supplies oxygen and nutrients to the entire body may become insufficient and may lead to complications like heart attack, stroke and peripheral arterial disease. Most people who already take a daily dose is its benefits as "**pampalabnaw ng dugo**", a drug that keeps your blood flowing. It is to be taken daily with your antihypertensive medication because it helps maximize the reduction of cardiovascular disease which is the leading cause of death worldwide. Do not hesitate to consult your doctor for the other important benefits you may derive from taking Aspilets everyday. Remember, the blood plays an important role in keeping our bodies healthy, so let it flow.

Sunday
LIFESTYLE

SLASS houses the sci, auditorium and a bit of nature.

Shrine to cutting-edge creativity

Three years and P1.5 billion later, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde opens a 14-story steel-and-glass tower to house its School of Design and Arts

Text by Alan Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vicoy

ONE OF THE REGION'S leading educational institutions has come up with a novel, if a bit expensive, way to capture its tradition of think outside the box as they collaborate with each other and tap into their individual creativity.

It took three years and P1.5 billion for the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde (DLS-CSB) to open a cutting-edge steel-and-glass tower on D'Ocampo Street in Manila last month, in time for the start of the current term.

Designed by Ed Calma, design principal of Leo Cabrai Design Associates, Inc., the 14-story white building, which allows daylight and fresh air to stream in from all directions through its louvered glass windows, houses DLS-CSB's School of Design and Arts (SDA).

The architectural firm edged out six rivals in a contest to host building design for SDA launched sometime in 2006.

"As long as he stayed within the budget, we gave Ed the freedom to do whatever he wanted," says Rev. Edmundo Presmedio, FSC, DLS-CSB chair and executive president.

"He shared our belief that a building, apart from housing a series of classrooms, should be a tool for reaching its users valuable interest on space and light. That alone made him head and shoulders above the rest."

The free rein Calma said he took part in this a reflection of DLS-CSB's emphasis on "personalized" education and the freedom SDA gives to every individual in his or her pursuit of academic excellence.

Great future

With a current student population of 2,000, SDA offers 12 bachelor degrees in such creative disciplines as animation, digital filmmaking, photography, multimedia arts, fashion design and production design, among others (www.dlsbenilde.edu.ph).

Other schools under the DLS-CSB umbrella are still housed in the college's Taft campus. DLS-CSB has a little over 8,000 students.)

"There's a great, big future for the creative industry," says Presmedio, "and through this building and its renowned faculty-composed mosaic of industry practitioners,

(MORE E2)

MUSE indoor amphitheater, among other "open" features, prods students to sit out and study here any

imagine a new measure of style

SAMSUNG

TOLL FREE 1-800-10SAMSUNG

ONE of SOA's music studios

ONE-ON-ONE education in SOA's animation department

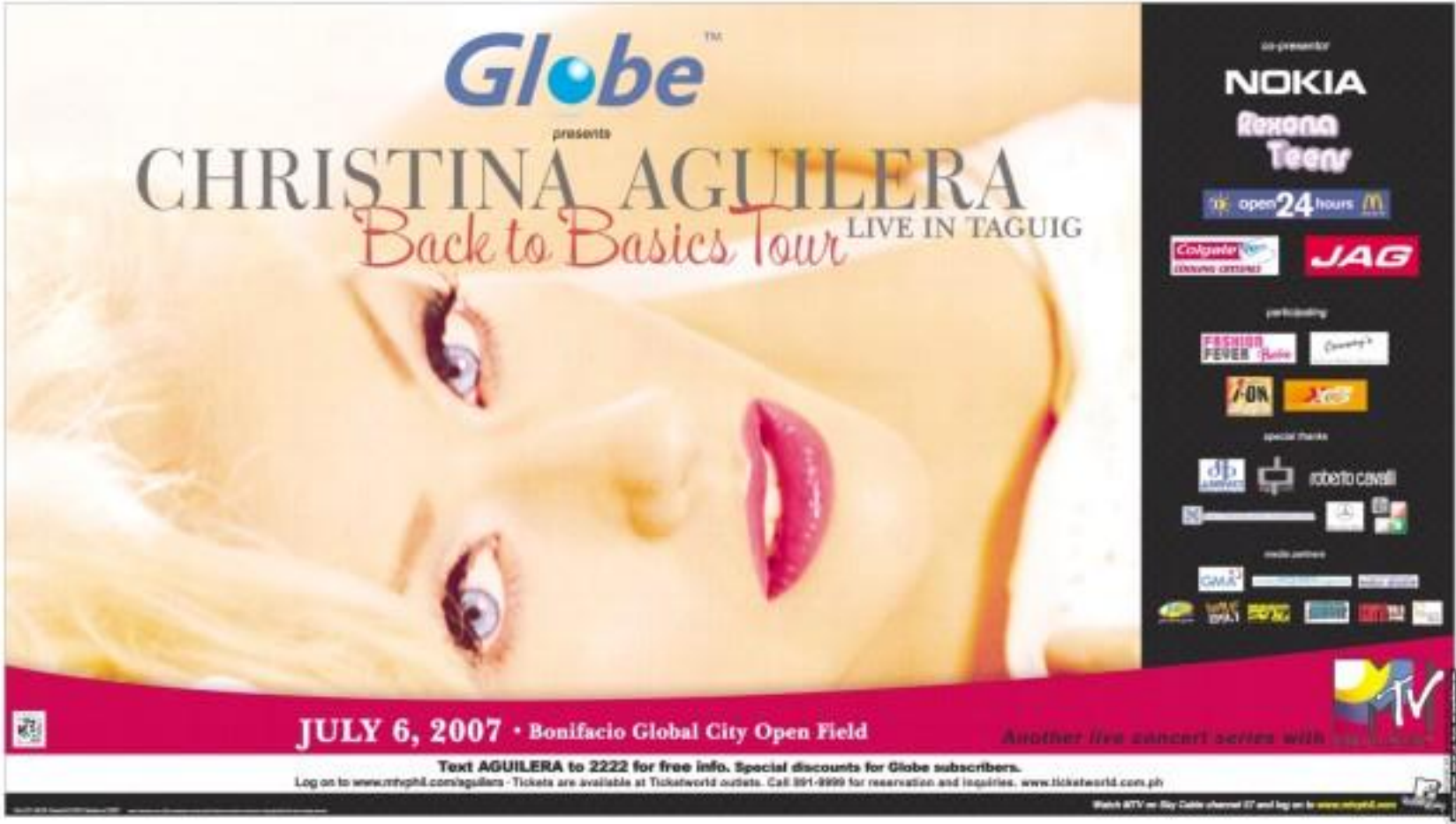
Shrine to cutting-edge creativity

From page E1

ner room to make a statement as we provide students, both Filipinos and foreigners, with an ideal interface."

Dubbed as a "campus within a building," the structure sits on a 16,000-sqm, irregularly shaped lot and has a total floor area of 31,122 sqm. Due to its bright and striking appearance, the building has easily become the newest landmark to rise on this side of the capital.

It hosts of such luxuries as a museum of contemporary art and design, cinema, video production and sound-recording studios, post-production facilities, indoor amphitheaters and USB-area theaters that cater to an intelligent and USB-area theaters that cater to an intelligent and USB-area theaters that cater to an intelligent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Watch MTV on Sky Cable channel 27 and log on to www.mtvphil.com

Practice makes perfect

There is no royal road to math or, indeed, to any sort of worthwhile endeavor

By Querna N. Lee-Chua
Contributor

THE MOST PERSISTENT QUERY I RECEIVE from readers is, "What is the secret to math success?" This question is actually as old as time, and the answer as ancient, too.

Before the time of Christ, when Ptolemy ruled Greece, he commissioned the royal mathematician Euclid: "Teach me geometry and, by the way, I want to learn it in two weeks."

Euclid, who was then writing the many volumes of his "Elements" (high school lessons today study half of his 13th volume in short), bowed low. "I can teach you," he replied, "but there is no royal road to geometry."

The monarch was reportedly chastened by this and humbly undertook the difficult task of mastering day after day, with Euclid by his side, to start from the first page and, after more than a decade, studied his way up to the last. Ptolemy became a wise king, much loved by his people.

There is no royal road to math or, indeed, to any sort of worthwhile endeavor (future learning does not exist. Whether king, commoner, genius or underachiever, the secret to success is the same: practice.

Cramming doesn't work

Of course, most of us do not have decades to learn academic lessons, though math masters (gurus and smart) debaters spend years honing their skills. But, even with everyday learning, we need to first understand, and then to review and remember what we understand.

If we do not understand something, we should ask help from our teachers, parents or peers. (Refer to my article "Three things teachers wish students knew," June 2). But under standing is not enough.

After getting excellent low scores, a student complained, "Ma'am, I understand what you write on the board, and what we discuss in class. I don't know why I do badly in exams."

When I asked him how he completed the practice exercises, he shrugged. "But I understand everything! I know I can answer the problems."

Knowing is not the same as doing. Understanding what is happening in class is great but, without personal skill practice, those glimmers of comprehension remain only in short-term memory and are then quickly lost. That is why cramming does not work.

Students say, "I studied fractions, but suddenly (I had a memory block," Or, "I memorized the phases and dates (see: hours before history class, but I forgot them during the test."

If we are lucky, we remember long enough to scribble the answers in a quiz, and forget them what the hell long. If not, we flunk big time.

But, for a long test, we have to start all over again, studying the same things as if for the first time, wasting time and effort. Or, worse, we just give up.

Exercise the brain

The road to learning is to understand, the reasons, review the main points, then commit facts to heart. It is said most of us use only 10 percent of our brains. Though this is debatable, the truth is our minds can definitely learn and store more knowledge.

Our brain contains nearly of nerve cells, but it can be likened to a muscle. To build muscles, bodybuilders hit the gym. When they stop exercising, muscles atrophy, disappearing altogether or, worse, turning to fat. Few wonder why many retired basketball players become obese?

When we want to solve word problems such as speak foreign languages fluently, or have history figures on hand, we need to exercise our brain by regular practice.

For instance, to learn multiplication by heart, a child can start by going through the times table on the first day, then the times table the next day, all the while reviewing the rules.

On the third day, he can proceed to the times table, with brief recaps of twos and fives. By this time, he would have mastered the twos.

In the next week, he can do fours and nines, reviewing them for 15-30 minutes every day. After two weeks, he can go to the harder ones: nines, sevens and eights.

If the child has not mastered multiplication when the next topic comes, then he should not neglect it. After 15-minutes review, he continues multiplication again. Inevitably, he will learn it by heart and, best of all, he will not forget it.

By the way, keep in mind that multiplication is communicative. This means that if the child knows what 4 times 9 is, then he already knows the product of 9 and 4.

Brain exercises are not limited to children. Recent research from the United States and Japan revealed that senior citizens who engaged in crosswords, scrabble or Sudoku daily could delay the onset of Alzheimer's by several years. When my brains are stimulated by challenges, my brain cells grow new.

Fitness enthusiasts know that to stop muscle mass loseth they need to add sets, reps or weights. Old routines become stale. Instead of buying yet another easy to read bestseller, why not challenge ourselves with a book from learning business, science?

Learn from sports

In his heyday, Boston Celtics legend Larry Bird attributed his stellar three-points shot performances to consistent practice. Every day, he would shoot more than 200 baskets, from different angles on the court.

Cancer survivor and champion cyclist Lance Armstrong practiced every day without let. Once, in the midst of a storm, while his opponents stayed home, he climbed up a steep hill. When he was back at the bottom, he turned to his trainer and muttered, "Let's do it again."

By force of habit, both Bird and Armstrong were about their games unconsciously. They were known for intensely focusing on the tasks at hand and delivering superb performances even in sweaty torments.

In the closing seconds of a championship game in the Li Forum, with opponents and the crowd trying their best to distract him, Bird would coolly sink all his free throws.

Armstrong, in Paris, once when he was harassed by numerous random dope checks, Armstrong remained master of all the falls, and winner of Tour de France seven consecutive times.

True, not all of us aim to be world-class athletes. But the dictum "practice makes perfect" holds true not only for sport, but also for music, drama, and yes—academics.

Once I asked one of my students, a star player in our university varsity team, how much he practiced to prepare for the games of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines. "At least three hours daily," he replied.

How much time did he spend on math? A disciplined guy. If he spent even just half the time he spent on practice to his assignments, I reminded him, he would pass the course.

He took the advice to heart and studied for an hour every day. Not only did he pass, he also marvel enjoying math, getting the highest grade of his life.

Querna N. Lee-Chua is professor of math and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. Contact her at bbadeck@yahoo.com.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

Guiuan: Almost famous

For a town so obscure, Guiuan island in Eastern Samar has had a surprisingly colorful history

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Correspondent

THE QUIET TOWN OF Guiuan, in the province of Eastern Samar sits on the edge of the vast Pacific. On this remote sliver of land, waves hit landfall on their long journey from thousands of miles away. And through the years, the ocean currents have brought conquistadores, warring soldiers, political refugees and even a saint.

For a town so obscure, Guiuan has had a surprisingly colorful history.

The island of Homonhon, about an hour away by banca from the town, is where Ferdinand Magellan first landed on Philippine soil more than four centuries ago in the first recorded trans-Pacific voyage. Magellan and his weary sidekick men were said to have been awakened to Homonhon by a gold-bedecked data called Limbas-gatas.

So impressed were they with the hospitality (as well as the gold on the person of the boat data) that he named the place Nueva Providencia, proceeding to claim Homonhon and the rest of the islands for the Spanish crown.

The freshwater springs from where Magellan and his men drank are still there, but these days the island has a new tenant. A construction mining company that calls itself Flexlogo has pulled up stakes and has made Homonhon its base.

Fortified town

Further into the Spanish occupation, Guiuan is said to have developed into the third largest fortified town in the Philippines, after Manila and Zamboanga, in the 1600s. The bar fix arms you have been built to support the town's role as an emergency stop for ships in their journey across the Pacific from Manila to Acapulco during the years of the Galleon trade.

A considerable Chinese community, lured by the prospect of commerce, established residence in the town as early as the 1700s.

From this period of relative prosperity came one of the most beautiful churches in the Visayas. Built by the Jesuits in the 18th century, the church, dedicated to the Patrocinio Concepcion, boasts the solid and stern demeanor of fortress churches in the coastal towns of the Visayas.

The interior beauty of the façade, however, belies the effervescence of the art inside. In its side altars and baptismal, the Guiuan Church offers unique thrill reconstructions found nowhere else in the country. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts, in a book to document the art form, counted 186 species of shells so having been embedded in its "adornment" of form and ornate to frame and adorn niches and walls within the structure.

Declared a national cultural treasure by the National Museum, the Guiuan Church is refreshing for having retained much of its original structure and décor, retaining what one writer has called "the over-beautification" of old structures, in the pursuit of which countless portions are gutted and renovated. Arches, cedar and tiles are replaced with crazy-cut marble.

GUIUAN 14

COVETED TREASURE. Saint Peter stands guard at the main doors of Guiuan Church.

REINA del Santacruzan Pueblo Jose Velaco Fernando crowned by lawyer Carin Martinez (left) and Chinggay de Veyra (Interview

REINA de los Flores Angel Gloria Gonzaga with her 2006 predecessor Sabs Maud and Dr. Gerardo Aquino of the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center

AMIGO floral splendor. Reina de los Angeles Isabella Maria Pastor with her predecessor in 2004 Fatima Johanna Pelaschaug, and Jose Maria (right).

EMPERADOR Constantino 2007 Evangelico Neil Kenny is crowned by his predecessor Peter Gabriel Means (left) and Cebu City Councilor Joy Pesquera.

CEBU CEBU
Joins Yourself

A Santacruzan to remember

AS HAPPENS EVERY YEAR, WITH SUMMER gone, Cebu celebrates June as Buwan Mayo. Some department stores are even ready to play Christmas carols in July.

But the fragrance of May will long linger, as does the memory of a splendid Santacruzan staged by the Quota International of Cebu.

The group has been at it for two decades now, raising funds for various daycare centers, a high school for poor hearing-impaired children, salaries for teachers and other personnel, plus charity projects.

Incumbent president Cristina Covarrubias didn't reveal the amount raised this year but she said it's impressive and has surpassed those of previous years.

"Remember, we're building a new daycare center," she announced, adding that the club is immensely grateful to Rep. Raul del Mar (Cebu City North District) for his support.

He was present on this occasion to crown the Reina Emperatriz, Alba Bolante Torres, a dear friend of Tina who is based in Bangkok and came just for this, donning del Mar's wife Gemma Zamora Cabreza, the consorque Miss Philippines-Universe 2005.

Like was much applauded by the throngs that lined the promenade route, from the chapel of the San Carlos Seminary to the Grand Convention Center. But entrances into the crowded ballroom for the coronation was a euphoric experience.

Coronation galore

Jhonny Pages emceed the program which started with a presentation by the children of the Pare High School for the Hearing Impaired. Inside Fuente Osmeña, there were other coronations that evening. Reina Elena Marbo Carnay was crowned by provincial board member Victoria Corominas, while Reina del Santuwaryan/Senora Yamaoka was crowned by Chinggay Ocampo, assisted by Governor Gwen Garcia-Hardiana.

Emperador Constantino Evangelico Pueblo was crowned by Cebu City Councilor Joy Pesquera and his predecessor Peter Means. Ten gorgeously garbed principes formed his consort: Noah Philipp, Ryan Uraska, Julius Caesar Elma II, Lamar Levin, Angelo Pajarillo, Benjamin Chan, Thiago Calderon, Manuel Sy, Aladin Arumpac IV and Martin del Rosario.

Reina de las Flores Angel Gonzaga was crowned by predecessor Sabs Maud and Dr. Gerardo Aquino, in her court of angelas were Mona Osmeña, Ms. Philippines Empire, Chelsea Gonzalez, Alyssa Marcelle Sua, and Kathryne Guanzon.

Cute little Isabella Maria Pastor was Reina de los Angeles, crowned by her predecessor Fatima Pelaschaug and popular emcee-actor Jun Sereno. Her court were Dee Tribiana, Katrina Lopuzan, Victoria Guillen, Tracey Tio, Anna Uy, Khalla Gomez, Gillian Lu, Kathleen Sanchez, Bianca Ty, Arianna Abera and Francesca Balbuena.

REINA Emperatriz Lisa Estrella Torres is crowned by Cebu North Rep. Raul del Mar (left) and Elenna Jimenez Caterra, Miss Philippines-Universe 2005.

REINA Elena 2007 Myka Ann Carey with her predecessor, provincial board member Victoria Corominas

The evening did not end with the coronations, pageantry. Linda Fernandez had brought the award-winning Dancesport to Team Cebu in Iowa timing, ago. Reina de los Angeles Isabella and Emperador Evangelico with their courts performed a lavish Rajaskan that stunned everyone. Reina de las Flores and her ladies, set to the dazzling young men, performed the Cebuano folk dance "Cariñosa."

Holding court at her special table was Lydia Bautista, who founded the Cebu Quota back in 1977 and has closely followed all its events the past 28 years. Most of the guests/ guests in the ready Santacruzan are children from the St. Benedict Childhood Education Center of which she is the principal.

Socorro Cedilla, the school's organizer, and honorary Quotarian, has already started planning next year's Santacruzan. Advertise here on May 4, 2008, same time and place.

Elections have just taken place as to who would lead Cebu Quota in the coming months. Maria Luisa Wilson has been elected president, along with Lourdes Calderon and Corinne Garcia Fuentebella as 2007 chairperson, who are vice presidents for internal and external affairs, respectively.

Other officers are secretaries Evelyn Sanchez and Gemma Duarte, treasurer Lisa Ibarra, auditor Marita Godinez, and press relations officer Pinky Elizo. In the board of directors are Lourdes Medana, Dulce Gonzaga, Nilda Ermentio, Gaspeche Jaba, Blush Lozada, Lourdes Manigan and immediate past president Tina Corominas.

The splendid event was staged by the Quota International of Cebu

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — GIVEN PAIRS

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A many-splendored Hong Kong

By Elizabeth Lalanga
Photos by Kasbo Hayasaki, Fernandez
Contributors

FLAMINGOS in Kowloon Park

BOY LOOKING out of Murray House

It is almost a point of irritation that everything works efficiently in the autonomous region, from the subway trains to vehicular traffic

"LANDING areas"

COUPLE waiting for subway train

STREET selling shoes

Feeling like a native

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'LEAN SEASON' RATES

Guiuan: Almost famous

Continued from F1

Still, the Guiuan Church has not escaped the depredations of the trade in antiques; one of the church's beautifully carved side doors was said to have been sold surreptitiously in the 1980s. Despite the loss, the church's main doors still stand majestically, where they have stood for decades, together with its impassive St. Peter holding the keys to heaven.

Smaller scale

In Barangay Salcagan, the chapel of San Antonio de Padua receives a regular flow of pilgrims who come to light a votive candle and pray for divine intervention. The chapel mirrors the shell art of Guiuan Church, albeit in a much smaller scale.

Outside the chapel, from their makeshift jewel stands, women sell shells as souvenirs to pilgrims. The cone off Talisayan are said to be a fertile source of shells, among them the precious golden nautile. At the time of our visit, however, no very golden nautile was on display as this shell has turned endangered species due to overharvesting.

"Overcompetition," a woman vendor said, explaining the method of gathering such shells.

During World War II, travelers of a more belligerent bent also made Guiuan their temporary home. In Barangay Dumpan, a souvenir market off a white-sand beach commemorates the struggles of men from these nations who "fought a war" in Guiuan.

In Barangay Ngolos, the incongruous 3-km asphalt runway built by the US Navy is still there, but since the Americans are long gone, the runway now serves the more practical purpose of drying bed for corn and other grains. In the same barangay, then 1149 served as a military base for the Americans during World War II and was the supposed base of the Enola Gay, the B-29 bomber that dropped the first atomic bomb in August 1945 on Hiroshima.

Russian refugees

The Russians, too, came to Guiuan, Tubabao Island, one of the islands within the jurisdiction of Guiuan, was used by the International Refugee Organization in 1949 to provide a temporary home for some 5,000 refugees, survivors of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 and the Russian Civil War of 1922. The Russians, too, built their structures—houses and even a church—before eventually moving on to more permanent stations in the United States and Australia.

Among the Russian refugees was the Orthodox Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco, who was said to have prayed for good weather, thus driving away potentially damaging typhoons.

It is said that so keen on he left, the camp was totally destroyed by a typhoon. Today, some Guiuanons are said to have Russian blood running through their veins. But proof of regular typhoons appears to have wiped out the material traces of the saint and his flock.

During the wet season, when wind and rain lash across the islands, Guiuan comes into prominence as the point where such weather disturbances hit landfall. Indeed, Pag-asa maintains a radar station in Barangay Japao, one of less than 10 such stations all over the country, putting Guiuan in the league of such places as Aparri and Baler.

At the city's summer seattle, the Big-ass radar station, perched on a hill planted to talisaysay trees, affords expansive views of the Pacific Ocean, the Leyte Gulf and the ugly brown scar of Municipal Island—like neighboring Homonhon, a place marred by mining.

For tourists unmindful of its rich history, Guiuan has kilometers of deserted shoreline and long sand stacks that lead from beach to beach to yet another beach. One imagines spending lazy days on a hike just exploring the empty, scenic coastline.

From the antiquarian view that it has fallen into, there are signs that Guiuan's fortunes may change again soon. Calicoan, an island connected to the Samar mainland by a causeway, now hosts a resort fancy enough to sport the distinctive shape of the Islamaghahan Seamen of Barangay. A sign just off the dusty road that traverses the island boasts extensive beverage construction of a mega sort early.

Soon, tourists and value consumers may once again descend upon Guiuan, some to leave their mark and consummate their passing and some to journey on with nary a trace.

Guiuan is three hours by van from the nearest Mass station in Tacloban.

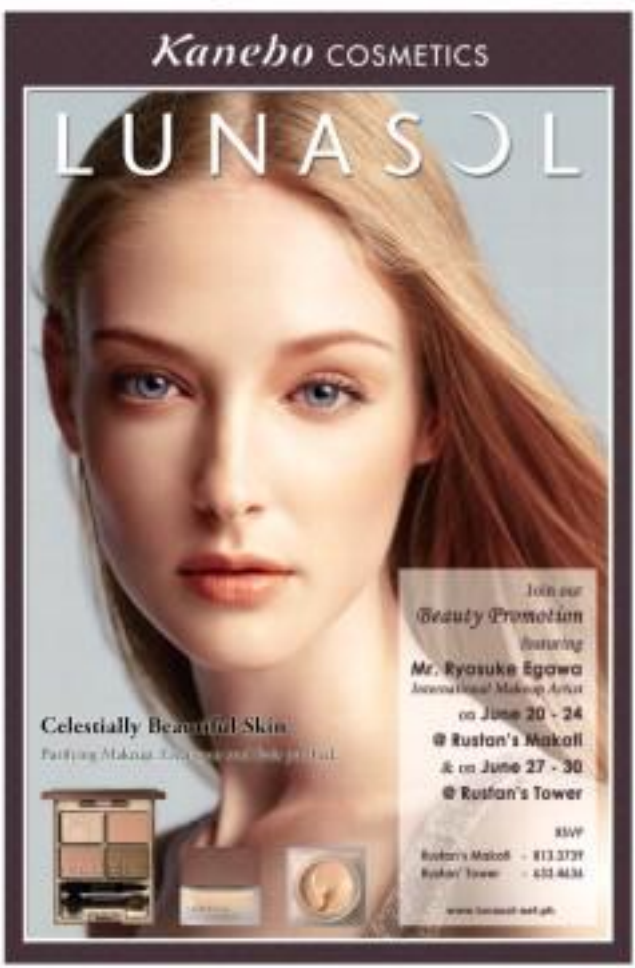
GUILUAN Church is quaint and well-worn

MAIN altar of Guiuan Church

SOLID wood font for holy water

SHELL-FRAMED niche, within a side chapel of the church

STRAINED of shells: The beauty of Guiuan's seas



ENTERTAINMENT

Edited by Ernesto G. Velarde

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INSIDE

- A star-sized tantrum
  Sunday Rushes /H6
- Bored of the 'Rings'
  OnlyINHollywood /H1

How Marian got the role

'She has the right combination of sex appeal and innocence'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

AS ENVISIONED by GMA 7, it was a much-hyped search—complete with the same outrageous plot twists inherent in most Mexican telenovelas.

Indeed, the quest for the lead star of the all-Filipino remake of "Marimar" included a cast of hopefuls from both the Kapuso and Kapuso channels. If

HOW /G2

'Umagang Kay Ganda'

By Nestor R. Cruz

"THEWORLDNEEDSCONTINUOUSCHANGE. 'We wanted to reflect that change," said Mario Nessa, senior vice president and head of News and Current Affairs, on why ABS-CBN's early morning show, "Umagang Kay Ganda," [illegible]

ABS-CBN has undergone major make-over. "We've stuck to the same format for about a decade," the GMA 7 group of stripper in a gathering on Thursday to launch the new show, "Umagang Kay Ganda."

The new show premiers tomorrow at 5:30

SPEAKING /G2

CHEER FACTOR

Charity canine

WHO LET THE dogs out? All sorts of dogs are now going through the wringer for the sake of the ailing pet Filipino, in the local version of "Marimar." GMA 7 exec Wilma Galvante says she's looking for "an ordinary dog that is trained." TV reports say comedian Michael V. will lend his voice to the doG2 contest. Bayani San Diego Jr.

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How Marian got the role

from page G1

even had an intriguing subplot involving the proposed remand of Angel Locsin to accept the plum role originated by Marian superstar Thalia in the mid-1990s.

In the end, GMA-7 found its "Marimar" in Marian Rivera, a 22-year-old graduate of all-female pop-quintet.

Prime Entidad, senior vice president for Entertainment TV, told reporters [illegible] assistant that Marian had bested other aspirants with her stunning looks and acting skills.

"We actually had a screen test. She was asked to read for the part. In fact, we will show the video of her test as 'Showbiz Central' [today]," Entidad revealed.

Added Joyce Bernal, who will direct the series along with Mac Alejandre, "She has the right combination of innocence and sex appeal."

Galvante said the selection committee was composed of network executives, including chief executive officer and president Felipe Gozon.

Rivera told the Inquirer that she was asked by the panel to do three scenes on audition day: "A heavy dramatic scene, a light-hearted moment with Daniel [Fernandez] and a kissing (dog) Pelgoso and a dance sequence."

"At first, I was nervous; the lines were given to me on the spot," she recalled.

To lend[illegible] a bit: The Kapuso network acquired the remake rights from Televisa, the Mexican company that produced "Marimar."

Local color

Galvante explained: "Televisa gave us an English copy of the script. Apart from translating it, we were also allowed to enrich the look and feel[illegible] with local color."

But in a show that first became a hit in the mid-1990s, still relevant in 2007?

"Yes," Galvante said. "It tells an universal story. Timeless. Very Komiks. It's about an oppressed heroine who triumphs."

Rivera was just 11 years old when "Marimar" became a nationwide phenomenon in 1995.

Rivera looked back: "I wasn't a regular viewer, but I remember that Thalia was a good singer and dancer. She's sophisticated and sexy. I also heard that she had a rich[illegible] romance."

Major makeover

So, she's not planning to have a[illegible] two removed, too, although GMA-7 is pushing out all the stops for a major makeover.

Said Galvante, "After 'Showbiz Central,' she will undergo coaching. We will not show her in public until her[illegible]."

Taking over the part of Marimar's lover Sergio, originally played by Latino hunk Eduardo Capetillo, is Singhing Recires.

"When I got the role, I[illegible] called me," Rivera related. "He said he's looking forward to the show. I'm also excited; it's our first time to work together[illegible] we hope we'll be a[illegible]."

Another edge over the other contenders could be her Latina blood.

She was born in Bluefield to a Spanish father and Filipina mother, but was raised by her grandma in Bacoor, Cavite.

Rivera admitted that she's daunted by the big break. "I'm praying hard," she said.

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June 23 (Saturday)
Glue 2:00 pm
Kamikaze Girls 4:00 pm
The Stars Converge 6:00 pm
June 24 (Sunday)
Glue 2:00 pm
Hotel Hibiscus 4:00 pm
Blue Spring 6:00 pm
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Crucial 6:00 pm
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Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice. Call 633-2227 for more inquiries.

Fantasy thriller

SET MADRID A futuristic Britain, the fantasy thriller "V for Vendetta" tells the story of a young working-class woman living who is rescued from brutality by a masked man known only as "V".

A freedom fighter committed to defend his fellow citizens against tyranny in a fascist Britain using violent guerilla tactics, V is also driven by a personal vendetta—to seek vengeance against his past tormentors.

The movie has many political and ethical questions relevant to today's world.

Natalie Portman and Hugo Weaving star in this HBO feature tonight at 9.

"V FOR VENDETTA"

"TRUE CONFESSIONS"

Romantic movies

"Third Base" which features romantic movies, airs Saturdays, 10 p.m. on 2nd Avenue.

Scheduled on June 30 is the Richard Jenni and Whoopi Snyder "hot cops in Soho flick."

In the lesbi's series "Million Dollar Listing" on Toro, days, 8 p.m., two of the biggest real estate firms in Hollywood and Malibu are unveiled each other for control deals in America.

Did premiere is being aired on channel 12 in Sky Cable Gold and channel 26 on Global Destiny Cable.

Period film

Robert de Niro and Robert Duvall star in a tale of two brothers set on a collision course as a result of a brutal murder in 1940s Los Angeles in HBOM Channel's "Run Cover Sessions," July 30 at 9 p.m.

The syndicate's stories also stars Charles Dunning, Ed Harden, Kenneth McMillan and Rose Grayson.

'Umagang Kay Ganda'

From page 6B

Arts

Only three "MGP" hosts—Jaya, Sen Jones, Winnie Cordero and Ogie Diaz—have been retained. Joining them are Tito Mendoza, Kim Atienza, Pinky Webb, Rico Hizalde, Bettie Ross, Anthony Taberna and Alex Santos.

Added vice president and head of Current Affairs Lucky Dela Vallez: "It's not [really] a complete overhaul because there's nothing [much] to overhaul."

Basa said the main change is format a multi-way participation. "Basil are a very interactive show," she explained. "We will have a live audience inside and outside the studio."

The early morning magazine show was originally titled "Blue Singko 2 Media" and was hosted by Babes Evans Talks, Pia Guanio, Cheryl Cosim and Bobby Yan.

In 2002, the title was changed to "Magandang Umaga Bayan." It became "Magandang Umaga Philippines" in 2005.

Why replace the hosts?

Said Basa: "We tried to base all the hosts on Arc's car mission statement—excellent journalism to make the world a better place. Both of these core hosts and anchors embodies that value."

She added, "Jaka is a great host. He is funny and entertaining, but we forgot that he is also the chair of the Optical Media Board. He has a sound experience and is extremely intelligent."

The network executive described Ruffy as "the consummate journalist. She will not jeopardize in the coming days."

Kim "doesn't just talk about the weather," said Basa, "he helps people get out of the way of typhoons." Rica is the on the spot grounds girl.

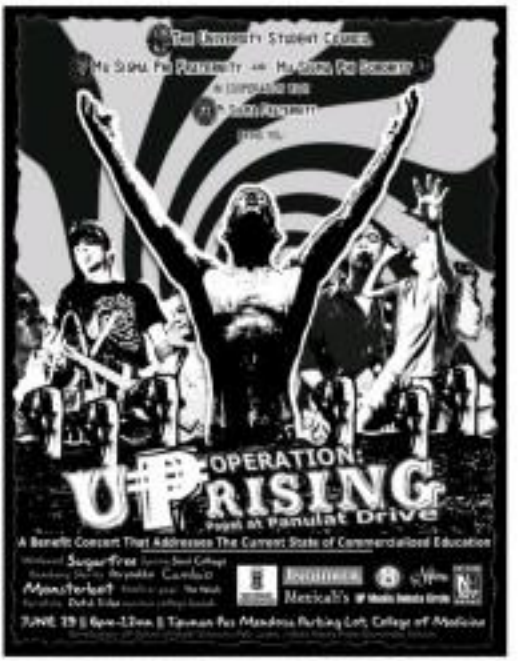
"Donna embodies a strong sense of values," Basa said, while Anthony "has always been controversial, but substantive. He will always make you think."

All in all, the show is about empowerment," said Basa. "We want to give viewers the information they need."

DID YOU KNOW...

Reeve's Superman outfit

LONDON—The costume worn by actor Christopher Reeve in the original Superman film nearly 20 years ago sold for 8,400 pounds (US$16,750) at an auction in London on Wednesday. It was expected to fetch only up to 6,000 pounds. AFP



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Ayala Malls
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G4
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THROUGH MOMMY'S EYES

One early afternoon at McDonald's, a mother and daughter were giggling and hugging, playfully teasing each other. Though touching, it would have been a common sight in the store, except there was nothing ordinary about the mother, who is a multi-awarded actress and singer, and the daughter, her miniature replica. There was nothing usual either about the lights, cameras, the various equipment around them, and the people watching them play.

"Mommy's Eyes"
Sung by Ms. Sharon Cuneta for McDonald's

Ang hirap talagang maging ina
'Di ko maipaliwanag, hanggan ngayon
Lagi kong iniisip ang kapakanan mo
Kahit "Mommy" ang tawag mo sakin

Lumaki pa ba sakaling ang isang ina
Laging nangangamba
Walang tigil ang pangamba nanggagaling at ito ang dahilan
Ang mga sakripisyo ko, walang pinipili

Sampung taonang ang lilipas na
Lumaki kang ako ay nanay, nakatanaw ka
Bigyan pa rin ako nang kahalagahan
Hihilom ang sakit ng kahapon ko

Ang nakaraan ko ka
Kailang pa
O sakaling sakin a siya
Ipagpaumanhin mo
Ang mga sinasabi ko
Kinakalimutan mo

The Shoot

As the shoot for McDonald's follow-up to the immensely successful "Finnick's Eyes", Ms. Sharon Cuneta and youngest daughter Miel were constantly surrounded by people. They were often focused on each other though, oblivious to the noise, the activity, and the cameras shooting them from every angle. This is how the commercial was shot, full of candid and natural moments woven together to tell the story of a mother trying to teach her child a lesson about sharing.

It was fascinating to watch Sharon work and be a mom at the same time. She listened avidly to Direk Jeremy Agcaoili's directions while keeping a watchful eye on her kids. She gave great takes consistently, and patiently instructed Miel in their scenes. In between takes, Sharon would do what she did in the commercial, gently reminding Miel about sharing as she played with other children in the Playplace. She heaped affection and encouragement on her daughters as they played and charmed everyone in set.

Miel, at 2 1/2 years, can her scenes as a game of "Simon Says", listening to directions well and going back and forth between her mom's table and the Playplace with boundless energy. She really made friends with the other kids on set, sharing her toys and playing with Ate Frankie, who was also at hand, helping coach her baby sister and performing for an "audience" of agency and production people. It was chaotic, but full of laughter and play.

The Recording

The recording of the song was quieter, with less people present, allowing Sharon and Miel to move more freely. The finishers they had for each other was wonderful to watch as they constantly snuggled. During breaks, Sharon spoke openly about topics ranging from her family to the recent elections. Despite the lateness of the hour, her energy level was up and so was Miel's.

While Sharon recorded, Miel would join her in the booth, curious about what her mom was doing and wanting to do the same. She even did a line in the full song, doing several takes, all of them adorable and sweet, just like how she would say it in real life. Sharon herself buckled through the song, but the lines related that she got teary when singing the lines because they reflected what she went through as a mom. The feeling she put into the song was an expression of the jumble of emotions a loving mother experiences: worry and self-doubt, then love and pride.

Throughout the making of the commercial, the moments shared by Sharon and Miel were effortless and genuine, and they hardly needed to act, their affection for each other was evident in everything they did. Later on, Sharon would share that the story was very easy to relate to, because a loving parent will always want to make sure her children understand the importance of the values they were being taught.

Once again, McDonald's has touched on an important issue every parent faces. Rather than show selective snapshots of a family's happy and carefree moments, the commercial explored a mother's raw, real and tough dilemma, about whether or not she is doing enough to instill in her children the right values.

It was a challenging concept, but with the efforts of the McDonald's Marketing team led by McDonald's VP for Marketing Margot Yatco, Marketing Manager Bobbie Ocampo, DDB Philippines' Accounts team led by Susan Hontanosas (Vice-Chairman and Chief Marketing Officer), Tey Sua Diego (Client Service Director) and Mike Abesamis (Account Director), DDB Philippines' Creative team headed by Executive Creative Director Terry Gonzalez, Deputy ECD Russ Mollan, Associate Creative Director Zyle Galicinao, Senior Art Director Jay Sablaguiga, and Copywriter Ana Mongaya-Pinzon from Omnimagen, and Director Jeremy Agcaoili, the commercial pulled it off without being patronizing. It successfully demonstrated McDonald's capability as a parent's reliable and trustworthy ally in raising children.

With its latest commercial, McDonald's continues to flourish as a brand that truly understands the Filipino family's unique experiences. Heartwarmers are made unforgettable. Lessons are taught without condescension, and the importance of family is lovingly celebrated.

love ko'to™

Heartwarming moments in McDonald's latest commercial "Mommy's Eyes", starring Ms. Sharon Cuneta and daughter Miel

ENTERTAINMENT

Bored of the 'Rings' in London

LAUNA Michelle Kelly as Galadriel

LONDON—THE BIG NEWS HERE IN ENTERtainment is the opening Tuesday night of the musical version of "The Lord of the Rings."

The musical, which comes with a hefty price tag of £12.5 million (US$24.9 million), is considered the costliest production ever in the West End. Dubbed "Bored of the Rings" by the Toronto Star when it began in Toronto last year, the show was rearrenged and shortened for its London run.

Still, the revamped show at Theatre Royal, Drury Lane earned mixed reviews from London critics.

Those who panned the musical adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's epic on hobbits, elves and dwarfs in the Middle Earth were ferocious.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Robert V. Segador

Charles Spencer of The Daily Telegraph, who also saw the Toronto production, questioned why the production had to be brought to the West End.

"I'm sorry to report that it remains a thumping great flop," Charles declared. "I took my 14-year-old son along, who enjoyed Peter Jackson's epic 'Lord of the Rings' films and is, I would guess, exactly the age and sex this show needs to attract in order to survive. Unfortunately, he hated it even more than I did, sitting with his head in his hands in those moments when he wasn't covering it the goodness-knows-what of the script and the 4 tonnes of the lyrics."

'Tiresome grandiosity'

Charles added: "Supposedly during this show, you feel its creators have more money than either sense or imagination ... and the accompanying humour—'May this hair on your toes never fall out'—are as cute you feel faintly sick ... Only Michael Therriault's characterful, cello creepy and schizoid Gollum, and Amiee Love and Peter Howe who make a crashing double act as Frodo Baggins and Sam Gamgee, come to permanent life. There last three are survivors of the original Canadian production. Full marks for loyalty but few for judgment, for they have wasted their time and talent on a show that combines tiresome grandiosity with mind-rotting mediocrity. In sum, I fear, will be nasty to attack and shoot."

The Independent's Paul Taylor groused: "Is it now the rule this show is only there all? I wonder what the Hindi word for 'no.'...The promised hydraulics of our ...theatre's most ...and spectacle never previously seen on this ...earth' seems not to be a show with a bit of an identity crisis, strong on dynamic spectacle, equivocal in drama, and in two minds about how it wants to see movie dramatically."

The show's saving grace seems to be Michael. Brad also had some kind words for the actor playing Gollum: "The evening's stand-out performer is Michael Therriault who jerks and jack-knifes like an addict assailed by painful, conflicting impulses as the diary, perverted Gollum."

The other Gollum

By coincidence, we'll mention here that other Gollum, **Andy Serkis**, who also won raves for his take on this character in the Peter Jackson film trilogy. We wonder if the buzz over the musical and Michael cost Collum.

Among the discerning critics who liked the stage production are *The Times*' **Ian Shuttleworth** and the Guardian's **Michael Billington**.

Ian wrote: "It's finally here—the year's most anticipated theatrical opening, costing £12.5 million and heralded by high hopes on one hand and prophecies of doom on the other. When I saw **Matthew Warchus**'s production in Toronto last year, I was dazzled and delighted by its ingenuity and visual invention. I was also frustrated by its slowness, insipid passages, unrecognised by some key performances and deeply disappointed by its banal climax.

"Happily, almost everything that was wrong has been put right. Some will prefer the slick grandiosity of Peter Jackson's films; others will sneer at the very idea of singing hobbits. It's their loss. Warchus and his team have created a heart, stirring, epic piece of popular theater that, without slavishly adhering to J.R.R. Tolkien's novels, embraces their

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3 THE INVISIBLE

4 NEXT

5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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8 Indefinite: NUMBALIKDIWA

9 PANO KITA SISIGIN?

10 ANGELS

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ERMITA

1 FANTASTIC FOUR

2 OCEAN'S 13

BORDERTOWN

3 THE INVISIBLE

4 ANGELS

5 NEXT

6 WILDERNESS

7 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3

METRO EAST

1 WILDERNESS

2 ANGELS

3 NEXT

4 THE INVISIBLE

5 OCEAN'S 13

POC 3

6 FANTASTIC FOUR

7 FANTASTIC FOUR

8 PANO KITA SISIGIN?

Congratulations to the winners of the recently concluded

OCEAN'S THIRTEEN Newspaper Countdown

NOVALICHES

1 FANTASTIC FOUR

2 FANTASTIC FOUR

3 OCEAN'S 13

4 NEXT

5 THE INVISIBLE

6 ANGELS

PIONEER

1 THE INVISIBLE

2 FANTASTIC FOUR

3 ANGELS

4 WILDERNESS

STA. ROSA

1 FANTASTIC FOUR

2 ZODIAC

3 ANGELS

4 PAN'S LABYRINTH

5 THE INVISIBLE

LIPA

1 ANGELS

2 FANTASTIC FOUR

3 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

4 OCEAN'S 13

5 PAN'S LABYRINTH

DASMARINAS

1 BLOOD and CHOCOLATE

2 PAN'S LABYRINTH

3 THE INVISIBLE

4 ANGELS

5 FANTASTIC FOUR

ANGELES

1 FANTASTIC FOUR

2 ANGELS

3 ZODIAC

4 THE INVISIBLE

IMUS

1 ANGELS

2 THE INVISIBLE

3 FANTASTIC FOUR

4 OCEAN'S 13

5 BORDERTOWN

6 SILIP

STARMILLS

1 FANTASTIC FOUR

2 ZODIAC

3 PANO KITA SISIGIN?

4 ANGELS

5 THE INVISIBLE

6 THE CONDEMNED

BACOLOD

1 FANTASTIC FOUR

2 THE CONDEMNED

3 WHISPER

4 RESERVE

5 ANGELS

6 LUCKY YOU

ILOILO

1 FANTASTIC FOUR

2 ANGELS

3 BORDERTOWN

4 WHISPER

5 OCEAN'S 13

6 LETTERS to IWO JIMA

Veterans top UK list

LONDON... A 3000-seat compilation of songs by oldies but goopsyup The Travelling Wilburys were straight to the top of the British album chart last week, the Official UK Charts Company said.

The Wilburys, founded in the 1980s, was made up of George Harrison of the Beatles, Bob Dylan, Roy Orbison, Tom Petty of the Heartbreakers, and Jeff Lynne of Electric Light Orchestra.

The chart-topping "Collection" is a remix of the Wilburys' two albums which had not been available on music fans for a decade.

More oldies

Other veteran rockers figuring in the Top 10 were The Who, whose new greatest hits collection "Then And Now" debuted in ninth, and former Beatle Paul McCartney's latest album "Memory Almost Full" dropping to 10th. Reuters

Idol's latest

Kelly Clarkson's maiden effort on her new album called "My December" (RCA).

This is her third recording, follow-up to 2004's multi-platinum hit, "Breakaway," which sold six million in the US and 10 million worldwide.

"My December" has Grammy winner David Bottrill (The Smiths, Bangles, Sugar Ray, Stabbing Westward, Paul McCartney) as producer, and UK punk legend Mike Peter as collaborator on three songs.

JENNIFER LOPEZ

All-Spanish

Jennifer Lopez goes back to her Latin roots in "Como Ama Una Mujer" (Sire/Warner Latin), her first all-Spanish album (Sony/BMG).

The 13-track CD took three years to finish and was produced by Rudy Perez and Sergio George.

Filipino classics

Richard Merk interprets the music of revered Filipino composers in "Manila" (Himig Records).

The CD includes Merkel's versions of classic songs written by Josefino Cenizal ("Hindi Ko Kaya" and "Ewan"), George Canseco ("Kailangan Kita"), Mike Velarde ("Ikaw"), Constancio de Guzman ("Ang Tangi Kong Pag-ibig") Danny Tan and Levi Celerio ("Sinta Ko Man Sa Sawa").

The title track, a new song composed by Noel Cabangon, is dedicated to Leyte's landslide victims.

Bored of the 'Rings' ...

From page H1

spirit. The show has charm, wit, and jaw-dropping theatrical brio; crucially, it also has an emotional heft."

Michael, writing for the Guardian, opined: "Although I find it difficult to buy into the Tolkien myth, I happily pay tribute to the skills of Waterhouse and his production team. For all the technology on display in a £12.5 million musical, they saved processing us with a marvelous industrialized spectacle."

'Dirty Dancing'

Another West End show that's adapted from a movie is "Dirty Dancing." Time Out London's verdict: "The story of Baby Houseman's metamorphosis from shy-but-I-belong-to-daddy schoolgirl into sexy adolescent in the archetypal Eighty-One-King story. That's helped in no small respect by the fact that the object of her affections, dancing teacher Johnny Castle, is played by Jared Bruton who has an electric dancing talent and a sex appeal to match. So Baby (Georgina Rich) has an attractive, well-scribed presence—not with the two heads working so well, all other clues needed is a fully functioning sound system and some great dance sequences. That the two are in attendance may explain why everyone was whooping and cheering by the end."

Stage to film

An exciting development—this time, going from stage to screen, is the casting of Drew Barrymore and Meryl Streep in the movie version of the West End hit, "Memphis Mist" Joining her in the movie that Playfilm says could be released: "The lovely Miss Abbie," are Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth and Julie Walters. Filming will be in London.

Gatsby party

Miss making news in UK's capital Thursday night was Paul McCartney, who reportedly threw a Great Gatsby-themed party to celebrate his 65th birthday. Among the star-studded guests, according to some reports, were Elton John ("in extravagant purple pants"—what will Prince say to that?) and his partner, David Furnish, and Kate Moss.

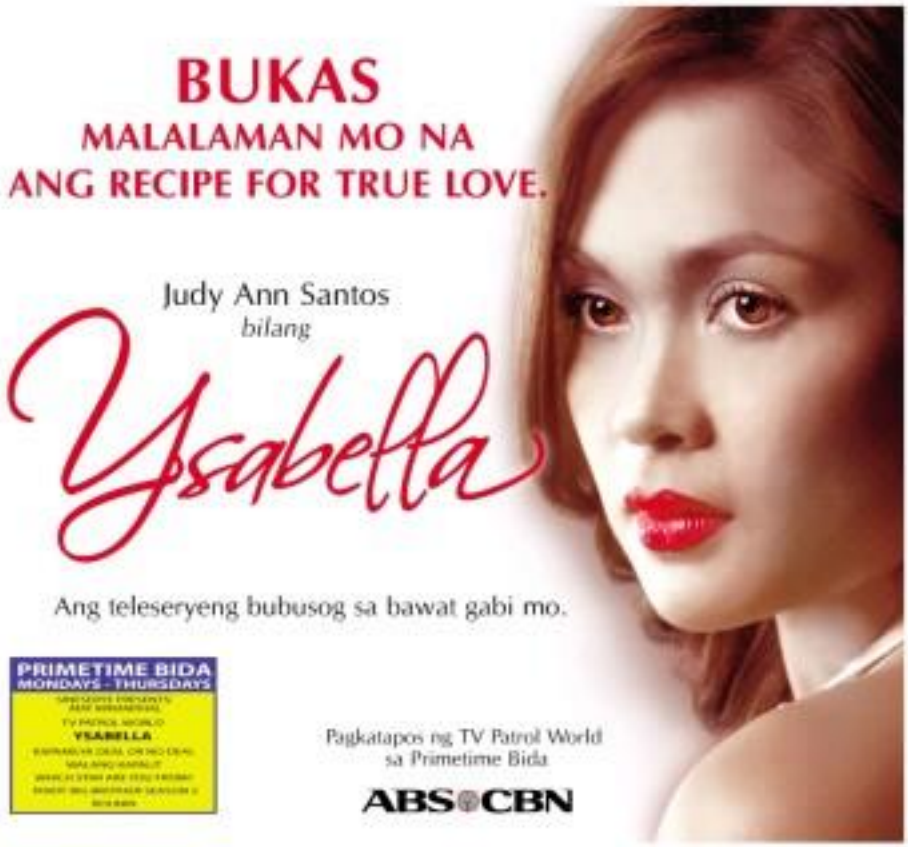
"The one saving grace seems to be the actor playing Gollum"

More than three decades after the Beatles split, the reported Paul McCartney Rules-Ban lead is still a hot topic. He (Ban) was recently asked one more time if Yoko had anything to do with the break-up of one of the greatest bands ever. "No," he replied and did not say anything more.

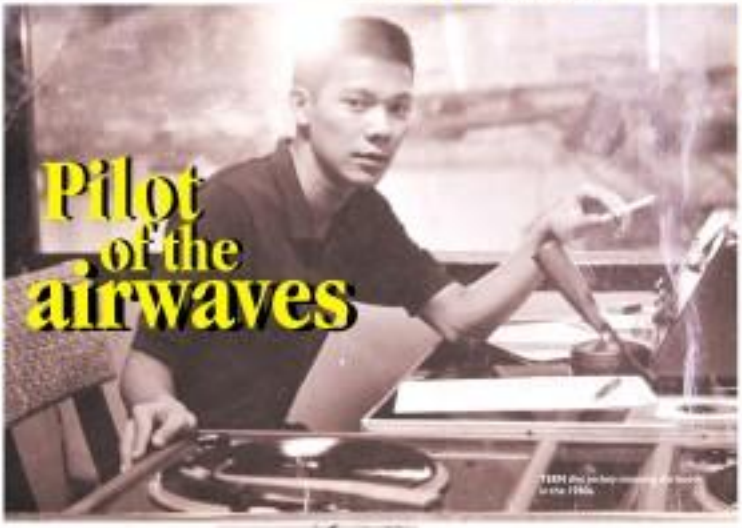
He was more elaborate in the London based The Word magazine: "When I write something, half the time I don't have a specific idea of what it's about. I've always had that wave of people who interpret things and say, 'Oooh... he's talking about 'this.' And I'm thinking, 'What?' I'm bloody not. I'm talking about a car."

E-mail the columnist at rsinpulat_5000@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Inquisitive Report," on newsinquirer.blogspot.com/inquisitivereport.

A SCENE FROM the West End version of another hit comic, "Dirty Dancing."



Pilot of the airwaves



TUNE (for) in for broadcasting at the beginning of the 1950s.

TYME RIGAS at home, now in's/mom "43 years of tube... and listeners," he jests.

WITH their kids (clockwise, from bottom left) Chiqui, Linds, Jerry and Ellen in the 1970s.

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by August de la Cruz
ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BROADCASTING PIONEER PETE ROA JOINED the fun when he was still in high school.

"I was studying at the National Teachers' College then and one of the professors was running radio station dzTC," Pete recalls. "I was invited to join the station as disc jockey."

While mastering the bands, he earned his high school and, later, college diploma (Speech and Drama) at the Far Eastern University.

The radio prodigy eventually crossed over to television and became famous as co-host of the ABC 5 variety show "Dance-O-Rama," along with Saby O'Brien, in 1963.

Established as a local version of "American Bandstand," "Dance-O-Rama," which ran nightly at 6, was the youth show to beat in the 1960s. There was even a Sampaguita movie version of "Dance-O-Rama" in 1963—with Nanie Baron and Jose Mari Gonzales as lead stars and Pete and Saby playing themselves.

SABY O'Brien and Pete interview character actor Ben Perez on the show.

DIRECTING Valentin Pedjoe and Pete Roa (standing) on the TV movie "Elsa."

Dance while

Tonight's acts often paraded on one down to promote their concerts at the nearest Coliseum," Pete remembers. "An example was [Gil singer] Dave Sta. Maria who popularized the classic hit 'Standard Beauty.'"

He also remembers: "I broke the ice with the show's guests by reasoning their different dance steps—like the Bunny Hop, Hokey Pokey and Chubby Checker. Since I knew their dance steps well, the guests became at ease with me."

Pete had great onscreen chemistry with Saby. "She's a jolly person," he says, "easy to work with."

After a year on air, the "Dance-O-Rama" team broke up when Saby was pirated by ABS-CBN, Kanlaon's radio program ("The Saby O'Brien Show") on ABS-CBN was pitted against her old show.

Replacing Saby on "Dance-O-Rama" was UP campus beauty Boots Anson, daughter of Sampaguita star Dean Sharmen.

Needless to say, Pete hit it off beautifully with

Yesterday

A certified broadcasting pioneer, Pete Roa witnessed the glory days of radio and television

"We didn't get along. Nonce used to brag that he was a good dancer. But according to world disco, I would do better," Pete says, starting with glee.

Pete describes Dolphy and Chichoy, lead stars of the prime time top-rater "Bahay Kubita," as "natural" talents.

What spelled the difference in the Dolphy-Panchito vignette was the former's humility, Pete opined. "Panchito thought he's the biggest star, Dolphy had no qualms about letting Panchito shine. That's why they worked so well together."

Another crucial factor in the comedy show's success was writer-director Ading Fernando. "He was the key. He was a great scriptwriter and executive."

Pete insists that Ading's all-key singing was just an act. "He was doing that on purpose, to make people laugh. He actually had a good ear for music. He played the guitar and sang well."

Another network asset was actor-turned-director Tony Santos Sr. Tony's assignment was "Dyan ng Lipunan," which featured Pedrito La Torre, Oscar Obligacion and Eddie San Agustin. Tony was a whiz, and he was heroic. He fought for his principles."

In recounting TV programs, Pete kept his love for theater in mind. "I endeavored to apply the same high production values in Dance-O-Rama. Things were harder then because we didn't have the same high-tech facilities that today's networks have."

Pete worked for ABS-CBN until a year before the declaration of martial law in 1972.

At freelancer, Pete directed and produced TV shows for different channels—among them "Elsa," a drama anthology headlined by Boots.

Pete insists that it was a breeze working with his wife. "It was more difficult for Boots. I often had to remind her that, on the set, she was to address me and not my wife."

It was hardest still for Boots' leading men. "Her partners seemed uncomfortable...especially in doing tender scenes. I asked them: Don't you know how to court women?"

In the mid-1970s, Pete set up ROPE, a talent management agency, and EPIQUE, an advertising agency. With Boots, he put up Pete Roa Productions; an RTW company (Workhorse Inc.) environment (Surveyed).

In 1982, Pete, Boots and their four children (Linds, Jerry, Chiqui and Ellen) migrated to the United States, where they stayed for a decade.

In Washington D.C., Pete managed a Filipino restaurant, Dia Bonga Philippine (on the Philippine line).

Stroke Society

When the Roas moved back to Manila in 1992, Pete returned to radio, anchoring "The Beauty of the Rose" (DZRH).

In 1997, he had a stroke.

Pete had been refused to quit smoking even after he fell ill—with cerebral infarction, glaucoma (in his right eye), emphysema and pneumonia. "I had been smoking since I was 14," he admits.

Recently, he had another major health crisis—stomach cancer, which required a gastrectomy. His comeback sought aggravated his condition. "Since I kept coughing, the cut on my stomach grew bigger."

That was when he decided that he'd had enough.

"My neurologist, Dr. Nong Asuncion asked me to join the Smoke Society of the Philippines. I feel it's important for me to take up this cause. I want to discourage people from smoking," he points out.

It has seen life would offer valuable lessons to others, so far, it has not.

"He is an effective spokesperson," Boots affirms. "For one thing, he has maintained his sense of humor in spite of his sickness."

Pete explains: "My rationale is that a happy mind makes a happy person. If you have health problems, the only way to anyone is to think positive."

Through it all, with Boots has remained tuned family by his side.

Pete jests: "We've been married for 43 years... 43 years of bliss for her and 43 years of blisters for me!"

NEWLYWED state vows on their 25th wedding anniversary in 1969, with Boots' parents Oscar Herrera and Belen Gonzalez as witnesses.

USAU on "Pen for the Road," from L, Elvira Manahan, Boots, Pete and Linda Mercado.

WITH fellow ex-DZRH radio workers, including Sukay Rodriguez, seated second from L.

IN THE US with their kids and grandchildren.

A flying hunk, a star-sized tantrum ...

From page H7

charitable side. Her family's headmaster for years, she is also kind to strangers.

A bold star who played her cups in one project recalls receiving an unexpected gift from the glamour girl: the dress that the (the bolder) had actuated in one scene! The stunned recipient later found that the dress was from a very exclusive store, and was very expensive.

Super models

Against all odds, the SPG (Celine reality show "Philippines' Next Top Model" found a winner in Geneleé Alvarado. She received a representation contract with a Hong Kong-based agency, half a million pesos in cash, an eight-page fashion pictorial in a glossy mag, and a P150,000 modeling deal, among others.

1960s star

We hear that 1960s star Rosemarie Somers is vacationing in Manila until August. In these parts, that's enough time for a movie, a telenovela and a few dozen commercials. Except that the US-based actress-writer-home has no pending offer with her old chum Sheryl and Wowie, another grandchildren.

Far from amicable

News that Silverstream Restaurant, Rico Blanco quit the band has been confirmed. There are rumors of creative differences but it's a new vocalist.

There's no word on this from band manager Lizzie Nadjali. But, in a media statement, she said, "In the next few weeks, we will finalize our plans." That's the formal part. In the rest of the statement Nadjali denied her former ward, using such words as "inconsistent" and "frustrations."

Last we heard, Rico Blanco was designing clothes. Angel Locsin is also set to study fashion designing.

Any connection he's to?

Tap of the tabloids

The top shows' hit stories as local tabloids this week (and why we are stunned, if we are stunned):

•"Iya Pasti, cupat akan ngipon (Nikky) ka na sa ... "

•"Ma 'Tell," hanngi ng isinwa Iya Tiya Pasti.

•Amy de Leon, nag-mall kay Tiya Pasti.

•Nyan, pinagbilin ng ama si Ashley ... if he makes Ashley cry.

•Ashley, tapi jo-pakin si Ryan. (Would this make her cry?)

•Ashley di pa nakakapagpag ng marriage proposal kay Ryan.

•Ryan, di interesado sa wedding, nili si Ashley. (Dine?)

•504 Average: Jeri Concepcion, gusto nang magpg asawa na gid. (Jeri dick, dude.)

•Jeri Concepcion, naglit-lan na, pero hindi pa rin ang panay.

•Nora Aunor, gusto nang kumain ng artificial insemination. (Didn't she say this months ago?)

•Nora, nagbigay ng $600,000 sa isang tattoo.

Twin presents

•Richard, Raymund, hindi pa nag-uusap mula 2 months. (Those who care, raise your hands.)

•Angel Locsin, pumasok ng shampoo commercial sa Bangkok. (Her middle name is E, for Enjoy!, kidding.)

•Angel, nagpa-autograph kay Gina Alajar.

•Ate Vilma, nagbibi-ng na! Bakay, nakwento?

•Vilma said let si Sam Milby at Geneviendi, pinagkakaka-kong Spay ng pabibo. (It cost at least P5,000 daw. What public of this guys that much?)

•Sam Milby, to Marian Cute -Ish. (Meaning, kutpot. Hasn't probably low he (must money for the house?)

•Rommie Gutierrez, may bad si Willie kaysa Jay Sisay. (Devillaner sa Bevilla ... there are other horses to be alphabet, girl.)

•Gutierrez (Christine) 2 days di nakipot ang saping, pinilitan si Bulli.

•Bulli nvinom-in illegal.

•Annabelle, Bulli, di interest si Mother Lily.

•Police-escorte si Bulli, andami na.

•Bulli, mas mayan at mga kakbo. (Go away now, police-escort.)

•Hermosa, wish si Bulli—nanalonah sa ang kyo-ni Kuwait-ni Tillman. (Clarify bogsha si Ivana.)

•Bulli, announcing dishdenote si Tillman sa birthday.

•Tillman, walkout sa birthday si Bulli.

•Min mukaw ang salam for si Bulli as "Tillman" kayan kya bida.

ALEA SEGUERRA

JESI CONCUERA

JUDY ANN SANTOS

ANGEL LOCSIN

ERIK SANTOS

Coming home

•Nora coming home. (Anuari, alive ba?)

•Nora in the 2 months...one with Lee Chin, no other with Herbie D'Mars.

•Interpret (Sharmie) or Mayor Ednerson pulli kin ang ang relasyon?

•Kasalukuy ang sabyan ang aspak or kin Aquino. (This is from a former colleague. We say no more.)

•Kris Aquino, nilibi-lot si Jonathan.

•EC D'Concierto: may nagsisimbag harnalit ilay ilay Mandy Ochoa), with si Billy Crawford. Dahay apologize ka Mga.)

•Erik Santos, di pinakamaiden si Bubi Hisa (Dakota).

•Bubi Hisa, hindi mo-nako pinanonoto si Erik. (Who cue?)

•Sharmie Gutierrez balpa hahil bisaan for the post.

•Nako Edelweiss Jurisdiction ng manik-manik si Public Administration. (Ngayon lang?)

•Anino ng amapol, nawal nang nawal kay Bino Aquino.

•Kris gone crazy?

•Cassie Ecordeo Barretto) message not convincing.

•Di nanang akap kang sa kis bin-in si Gretchen ang naging pkatulalo niya.

•Dina trouf Jennine Hermosa and Rayabey Dijkstra-Jaynale as kung dun sa mas lil'ang-mas?

•Vilma (Santos) sending pinahong mahjongpahil kay Gretta (Subiaru Gomez).

•Lucy (Torres-Gomez), ibebalgay ang mga belonang na Bnk kay Gretta. (Mahirak si dat SL)

•Ate caught in the act ana Galaxy Chang.

•Andi, pumapaj Sampaga ang

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THEY FEED ON YOUR BRAIN
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE EXORCIST"
Ashley JUDD
Harry CONNICK Jr.
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A flying hunk, a star-sized tantrum, and 'Monster Mom'

RUSHES SUNDAY

By the Inquirer Entertainment Staff

WHY IS HE ACTING UP?

This major female star is choosing a contrain because, the grapevine says, she has been receiving only half the salary less of her male screen partners.

One of the male leads in question is years older than the young beauty, who got the entire star deal when she acted opposite a pretty guy her age.

Mmm, even a female contrarida is yet another project got paid more than the star did!

No wonder the girls in a soap novel and her manager has been consulting a lawyer.

Mr believe this is more of an issue for Gabriela than that very confusing battery case featuring a battery beauty queen.

Stargazing at the airport

Spotted at the airport recently was a dusty hit hunk who's gender choice culminates love to question.

As if feeling the naughty vonnem, the hunk was with an openly gay guy in the departure area. They had matching outfits on bags! And they were bound for Amsterdam!

Hmm, doesn't Amsterdam allow same-sex marriages? Ay, let's not jump to conclusions. But after the Nora Aunor case, anything is possible.

Note: Pat Sunk refused to sign autographs or pose for snapshots with fans at the VIP lounge. Jaffalot

Casting coup

Annabelle Rama is reportedly still deep in the

REGINE Velasquez (right), with costume designer Cynthia Alexander.

routine with film producer Lily Monteverde on the side of her comeback movie under Regal Entertainment.

Mother Lily's preference is "Monster Mom," but Nora would have none of it, saying, "Hindi na raw ako nanay."

The latest report is that the title will be "Hanna Jeong" (Lily secured word being Hanna) for "boy" and some of Ramon's favorite expressions.)

As we go to press, we get the latest from "Monster Mom" who's having "Monster Haircut" (done) with "Monster Nose." Perfect.

Privy kitchen

Regine Velasquez is apparently building a new house. She was seen shopping with her interior designer Cynthia Alexander for an expensive kitchen unit at Shanghai Case, an Italian furniture center at LM Fredrick Building in Makati. Did she pick the one with the biggest price tag?

Writer, offended

A writer is "offended" at how executive and creatives are "treated wrong" abd worries. Complains the author: "The network failed to give me credit and has declared my work."

Ms Generous

Instead we urged for another, the ever-kind beauty urges. ally has a soft spot